FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

6 MARCH 1984

Lebanon

Abrogation of 17 May Agreement — The Lebanese cabinet, in a statement broadcast by Beirut radio, announced its decision to cancel the 17 May agreement with Israel. According to the decision, the government will take steps to establish security measures and arrangements to ensure sovereignty, security, and stability in southern Lebanon in order to prevent infiltration through the southern borders and achieve the withdrawal of Israeli forces. Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan agreed to retract the resignation of his government for a short period pending the formation of a national unity government.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad subsequently telephoned President Amin al-Jumayyil to congratulate and thank him for abrogating the agreement, emphasizing that the action is a victory for the Lebanese and Syrian peoples, Damascus radio reported. On the other hand, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir denounced the Lebanese decision in a statement issued by his communications adviser and reported by IDF Radio. Asserting that Lebanon's "capitulation" to the Syrian "diktat" spells the end of its independence and sovereignty, the statement stressed that Israel remains ready to implement the 17 May agreement but will seek appropriate ways to guarantee its security while continuing to feel friendship for the Lebanese people. Israel will be obliged to drop the Lebanese Army from its plans for security arrangements in southern Lebanon and make do with the assistance of local groups like the Christian militia, according to security sources cited by IDF Radio. Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres, in an interview with the radio, called on Shamir's government to "unilaterally and immediately" implement the clauses in the Israeli-Lebanese agreement pertaining to the security of Israel's northern border, adding that Israel should make it clear that if the "terrorists" attempt to return to southern Lebanon, the IDF will cross the border, repel them, and return home.

Phalange Party leader Pierre al-Jumayyil said the cabinet's decision was "forseeable" and one among several steps "which should be reached with the United States, France, Israel, and all states concerned" with events in Lebanon to guarantee an end to the war, Beirut radio reported. Pierre al-Jumayyil also chaired a meeting of the Phalange Political Bureau and Central Council which expressed "absolute confidence" in Amin al-Jumayyil and affirmed support for his efforts to find "radical solutions" to the Lebanese crisis, according to the radio.

However, the Command Council of the Lebanese Forces, in a statement broadcast by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, rejected the government's "submissive decision imposed by the Syrian assault against the free Lebanese people" and called for a unified Christian stand to resist "all the Syrian policies which will be imposed on the Lebanese Government." Such resistance is a "sacred duty" to the principles for which Bashir al-Jumayyil was martyred, the statement contended.

Security/Military Situation — Beirut and its environs were calm early on 6 March and an official cease-fire declaration is imminent, the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio reported. The previous evening, officials of the Progressive Socialist Party, the Amal Movement, and the "patriotic army" decided at a meeting in Beirut to maintain a cease-fire and consolidate security in West Beirut, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iranian soldier died in a Stockholm hospital on 5 March after receiving severe burns on more than half his body from Iraqi "chemical bombings" in the southern battlefronts, IRNA reported. However, the Iraqi commander of the east Tigris forces in remarks cited by INA said Iraq had used only "conventional weapons which are internationally acknowledged" to defend its territory. The "heavy casualties" suffered by the Iranian forces resulted from the intense Iraqi firepower and the roughness of the terrain, the commander added. IRNA maintained that the Iraqi military commander had "implicitly admitted" use of chemical weapons when he told reporters that if Iraq had any such weapons in stock, it would have been "quite reasonable if they were used against the Iranian forces in the recent offensive."

Meanwhile, Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i, in comments reported by IRNA, said that the current "highly promising" military operations against Iraq will continue. For this reason, "public mobilization" in terms of manpower and money must likewise continue, he stressed. Iran will not let the tempo of the war slacken nor will it concentrate its forces in a single part of the war front but will instead attack from any point it wishes.

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Middle East & Africa

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PLO Official: USSR Trying To Mediate PLO, Syria

LD051346 Kuwait KUNA in English 1058 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Sharjah, March 5 (KUNA) — A high ranking Palestinian official said Monday the PLO is keen to maintain good relations with Syria, and that Fatah movement never took any action to spoil those relations. In an interview with daily *AL KHALIJ* published here, Fatah Central Committee's member Salah Khalaf 'Abu Iyad said that the recent visit made by the head of PLO Political Department Faruq Qaddumi had positive results in some ways.

Khalaf indicated that the Soviet Union is trying to mediate between Syria and the PLO since the dispute started last summer when PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat was asked to leave Syria. The PLO will leave the door open for this mediation he noted. On the other hand 'Abu Iyad denied that the resumption of the relations with Damascus will lead to resume relations with Fatah opponents.

On efforts for the Middle East crisis, Khalaf said that the American proposals do not serve Palestinians, but it aims at killing the Palestinian cause. The abrogation of [word indistinct] agreement will give the Arabs hope of rendering other settlements, he added.

Further Details

GF050904 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0734 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Ash-Shariqah, 5 Mar (WAKH) — Mr Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), Fatah Central Committee member, has affirmed the PLO's concern about relations with Syria. He said that his movement has never, at any time, adopted a position against this relationship. In a statement published in the newspaper *AL-KHALIJ* here today, Mr Abu Iyad described the visit to Syria by Mr Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, as partly positive, although contacting Syria requires more time.

He added that the Soviet Union is seeking to mediate between Syria and the PLO and that this mediation has not stopped since the eruption of the dispute between them. He said the PLO keeps the door open to this mediation but refuses reconciliation with the opposition in Fatah, and added that this issue has been settled because they were expelled from the movement.

Mr Abu Iyad welcomed the abrogation of the 17 May Lebanese-Israeli agreement and said that this will return hope to the Arab citizen that other agreements may also be abrogated. He praised the important role played by the Lebanese national movement in achieving victory and called on the other powers not to intervene in the affairs of this movement and to let it handle the conflict the way it deems appropriate.

Mr Khalaf renewed the call for uniting Arab ranks in order to confront the present state of decline and disintegration suffered by Arab solidarity. He said that prospects for national settlement in the region are nonexistant and that there has to be a new path for creating a balance in the region through which one can talk about national settlement.

About the possibility of holding a meeting among Palestinian organizations in Aden, he said that the Palestinian arena witnessed an acute division in the wake of the events that took place in Tripoli and Al-Biqa' and that circumstances are now appropriate for holding a meeting among all the Palestinian factions in order to define precisely the goals of the coming stage and to formulate some sort of a pact that defines taboos inside the Palestinian arena. He stressed that although the Palestinian resistance is distant from contact lines with the Zionist enemy, armed struggle will develop in the near future. He said armed struggle is not over despite the difficulties facing the Palestinian resistance.

PLO Official Views Results of Talks With Jordan

GF031508 Doha QNA in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Doha, 3 Mar (QNA) — PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, who is visiting Doha, has lauded Qatari-PLO relations and the constant support extended to the Palestinian question by Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, and the Qatari people and government.

In a statement to QNA Mahmud 'Abbas discussed the recent talks between King Husayn of Jordan and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. He said the two sides agreed to maintain the relations between them and to eliminate all the obstacles that stand between them. He added that the Jordanian and Palestinian sides also agreed to carry out joint political action in the next stage, particularly on the international level. He said that such action will begin with the Soviet Union and will include European countries with the aim of developing the stands of these countries on the Palestinian question. Thus, there can be Arab, European, and Soviet pressure on the United States to persuade it to change its stand on the Palestinian question, he said.

The PLO Executive Committee member said that 1984 will be a year of political action for the PLO and not a year of political solutions — no political solution to the Palestinian question can be seen on the horizon and consequently the PLO must not remain idle but must move to bring about a situation with which it can react in the future. 'Abbas said that no peace plans have been proposed either by Jordan or the PLO — the only peace plan under discussion now is the Fes peace plan, and the PLO stands by this plan.

The Palestinian official said that it was agreed that the Palestinian-Jordanian committee on supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories will renew its activities and contacts with the countries that support the committee, particularly the Gulf countries and Algeria, in view of the fierce onslaught against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. He said that this onslaught can be seen in the Israeli settlement policy, for the Israeli colonizers now control approximately 54 percent of West Bank land and more than 28 percent of the Gaza Strip.

Referring to the PLO plans for the next stage Mahmud 'Abbas said: Following the heavy blows dealt to the PLO during the sieges of Beirut and Tripoli — and the aim of these blows was to destroy the PLO — the PLO has been suffering from some

paralysis. Therefore it is necessary to convene a PNC meeting as soon as possible. He added that the PLO Executive Committee is expected to meet in Tunis within 2 weeks after holding consultations with Palestinian organizations to pave the way for a PNC meeting in Algeria at the end of March or the beginning of April in order to agree on a new formula and elect a new PLO Executive Committee that will lead Palestinian action in the coming stage.

Referring to current Egyptian-Palestinian relations, especially following the recent visit of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to Cairo, Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, said: A new stage in Palestinian-Egyptian relations has begun. These relations however, are still in their early stages because the commitment to PNC resolutions stipulating that rapprochement with Egypt should be commensurate with how far it moves away from the Camp David policy still stands. Mahmud 'Abbas lauded President Mubarak's Arab policy and said that Mubarak's policy will help to develop Egyptian-Palestinian relations as well as Egypt's relations with the Arab nation which greatly needs Egypt's strength and influence.

In a statement to the Qatari paper *AR-RAYAH*, published today, Mahmud 'Abbas said: The Amman summit meeting between the Jordanian monarch and the Palestinian leader yielded an important result, namely the reaffirmation that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The statement on the talks, by concentrating on the Fes solution as the only way to achieve a solution, seems to suggest that the Reagan plan is unsuitable. Mahmud 'Abbas added: In light of the results of Palestinian-Jordanian action, Yasir 'Arafat will return to Amman for another round of discussions with His Majesty King Husayn. He said that one of the most important results of the recent Jordanian-Palestinian talks was the joint pledge to solve the problems facing the Palestinian people both within and outside the occupied territories. Abu Mazin hinted that this includes solving the problem of stateless Palestinians.

AR-RAYAH reported that following his visit to Qatar, Mahmud 'Abbas will visit other gulf Arab countries to brief their leaders on the results of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks.

Fatah's Al-Hasan on Jordan-PLO Talks

JN021850 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Brother Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee, has said that the Jordanian-Palestinian talks were characterized by objectivity and amicability. In a statement to QNA in Amman, Al-Hasan said that the main principle that guided the talks was that 1984 is the year of gathering political cards. He added: It is not possible that we can permit the Palestine question to become a secondary issue on the agenda of the world community. Accordingly, a move must be made on both the Arab and international levels to create interest so the continuation of political discussions concerning the Palestine question can be perpetuated. This can take place through making the United States adopt a stand that recognizes the Palestinaian people's rights to self-determination.

Brother al-Hasan reiterated that the Palestinian-Jordanian talks have laid the groundwork for this joint move in a manner that does not conflict with the PNC decisions. Concluding, Al-Hasan said: We have decided to take joint action within the Arab framework and according to the Fes summit resolutions. We will work together to unite the Arabs around the Palestine question during the coming Arab summit conference.

Intimidation of West Bank Delegation Alledged

JN051909 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Within a new attempt to intimidate the Palestinian citizens and in pursuance of the escalated arbitrary measures against them, it was mentioned in Tel Aviv yesterday that the Zionist Cabinet discussed the measures that will be taken against the members of the Palestinian delegation that recently met with Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar. Israeli Cabinet spokesman Meridor claimed that the meeting the Palestinians living in the West Bank had with 'Arafat conflicts with the martial law. Terrorist Ariel Sharon, Israeli minister without portfolio, called for taking the members of this delegation to court.

'Arafat Sends Message to Algerian President

JN051949 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Brother commander Abu 'Ammar has sent a message to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, dealing with the results of his recent talks with King Husayn. Abu 'Ammar gave the message to the official in charge of the FLN permanent secretariat general when he met with him in Tunis last night. During the meeting, the developments in the Arab region and the arbitrary Zionist measures agaisnt our Palestinian people inside the occupied homeland were discussed, in addition to the situation in Lebanon, the Iraqi-Iranian war, and the means of halting this war.

Baghdad PLO Radio on Reagan Peace Plan

JN030813 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The U.S. Administration tries to revive the so-called Reagan peace initiative from time to time by exploiting either international circumstances or the events in the region. The U.S. Administration either forgets — or chooses to forget — that this plan was stillborn because it was rejected by the PLO. In any case, the revival of this plan makes it necessary for us to reiterate a number of points, summarized as follows:

First, when the Palestinian revolution rejected the U.S. plan, it based that rejection on firm and basic considerations. This rejection was not the result of an urgent political consideration. The first of these considerations is that the Reagan initiative ignores the Palestinian Arab people's right to self-determination and to establish an independent state. The second is that this

initiative ignores the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. These are the foundations for peace in the Middle East region. Ignoring these facts means attempting to liquidate the cause of the Palestinian people and bypassing their legitimate rights. This will not achieve either peace or stability in the region. The United States, which has always strived to present plans of solution and settlement that bypass the will of our people and their legitimate rights, has enough failures in this context. The best evidence of this is the autonomy plan of the Camp David agreements that foundered on the rock of the steadfastness of the masses of the Palestinian people and their adherence to their just rights.

Second, the objective of this plan that the U.S. Administration presented in September 1982, while the Palestinian revolution forces were in the middle of the sea, was to complete the Zionist military operation through a political siege that would confuse the Palestinian revolution. This was to be done by exploiting the circumstances of their departure in a way that would make the revolution's decision loose its importance. Then, what remained of the Palestinian cause would be removed from Arab decisionmaking when the Arabs accepted this plan. The Palestinian revolution faced this by struggling on the basis of the Arab peace plan and according to the PNC resolutions. This stresses that the Palestinian revolution has passed through those circumstances which the U.S. Administration attempted to exploit by presenting the plan at that particular time and by attempting to strike at and liquidate the Palestinian cause.

Third, the Palestinian revolution that went through the fiercest and most violent of battles in Al-Biqa' and northern Lebanon in order to defend independent national decisionmaking and fight against all forms of containment, has preserved the independence and strength of its decisionmaking with the support of the masses of the Palestinian people. Furthermore, the Palestinian revolution came out of these battles with the biggest Palestinian popular referendum support — from Palestinian people all over the world, particularly in the occupied territories — for the leadership of the revolution and the independence of its institutions. This confirms the PLO's executive and leadership status in our people's struggle in such a way that makes the possibility of bypassing it a sheer illusion.

Fourth, the Lebanese events have revealed the United States' ugly face as the enemy of the aspirations and hopes of the people, its clear bias to the enemies of the Lebanese people, and hence the falseness of its credibility as a side capable of solving the Lebanese crisis.

The fifth and final point is the total U.S. bias toward the Zionist entity and the U.S. support of the Zionists' expansionist and settlement plans in the occupied territories. This is the result of the strategic alliance agreement with the Zionist entity and the implicit U.S. support for all of the Zionists' Judaization actions. This stresses that the United States is a party in the conflict, and not a mediator or judge who presents solutions. On the basis of all these points, we stress not only that we reject this plan, but also that we possess the means and ability to face it and foil it.

San'a' VOP Commentary on Jordan-PLO Dialogue
GF060717 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] For 5 days, the Palestinian-Jordanian talks were held under the chairmanship of Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, and His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan. Before getting into the details of these talks and the results of the [words indistinct] took place in accordance with the resolutions and the recommendations of the PNC sessions which were held since 1974, and in accordance with the resolutions of the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee which were adopted in their latest meeting which was held in Tunis and during which the members of the Palestinian delegation to these talks were chosen, it is necessary to stress that the Palestinian-Jordanian talks emphasized that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. These talks also emphasized the independence of the Palestinian national decisionmaking. Through this, we can say that the talks came to express firm Palestinian determination to hammer out a joint working formula through which the PLO and Jordan can move on the international arena to tackle the current developments in our region, thus responding to the aspirations of the Arab nation — which are designed to free the Palestinian people and the Palestinian territories from the Zionist occupation and its plans — and ultimately to attain a just and lasting peace in the region. Such a peace will never come about without the recognition of the full rights of our Palestinian people, which are represented by the rights to self-determination, to return home, and to establish an independent Palestinian state on the soil of Palestine under the PLO leadership.

The Palestinian leadership, which was entrusted by our Palestinian masses, has the right to move in a direction that serves the interests of our masses and our land and attain the people's hopes and aspirations through the restoration of their rights and freeing them from the grip of the Zionist occupation. Neither we nor any Palestinian citizen or any Arab citizen think that the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue has drifted away from these hopes and aspirations. We believe that this dialogue has consecrated the sole PLO representation of the Palestinian people and the right of these people to self-determination. As stressed by the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogues, we confirm that any Palestinian dialogue with any side — whether Arab or foreign — is not suspectable to objection, to opposition, or to being described by mean words that should not be voiced.

The representatives of the Palestinian people who departed the occupied territories to bless the Palestinian-Jordanian talks are the most outstanding witness and evidence that our masses in the occupied territories do support these talks and do call for further organization of the Palestinian-Jordanian talks in order to attain the desirable goal of our people both within and outside of the occupied homeland. Our Palestinian people continue their efforts to reach their goals and look forward to reaching right and soundresults in the Palestinian-Jordanian talks. They also look forward to the participation of the Arab brothers — who are regarded as sincere supporters of the aspirations of our Palestin-

ian people — in the results of these talks. This was keenly confirmed by Brother leader Abu 'Ammar last Saturday when he announced that the dialogue was still continuing and that a Palestinian-Jordanian committee will tour the Arab capitals to apprise them on the results of the first stage of this Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue in order to obtain Arab approval. The next stage of the dialogue can then begin to move on the international arena — particularly in the European arena — and thus make all the influential and capable countries and powers play an outstanding role in nailing down a just solution to the issue of the Palestinian people and developing a more advanced position toward the Palestinian issue.

What is left is to say that the visit undertaken by the Palestinian delegation under the leadership of brother leader Abu 'Ammar to the Jordanian capital, Amman, and his discussions with the officials there, is also designed to cement the special and distinguished relationship between the Palestinian and the Jordanian peoples. These relations are firm no matter how plotters try to (?spoil) it.

BAHRAIN

Arab League's Klibi Arrives 5 March

GF051842 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1810 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Manama, 5 Mar (WAKH) — Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi arrived in Manama this evening on a 1-day visit to Bahrain within his current tour of a number of countries in the region. He was received at the airport by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah. Chedli Klibi made a statement upon arrival saying that his visit to Bahrain comes within the framework of the visits he is making to Arab countries to meet with their leaders to discuss the current Arab situation. He said he will hold talks with Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah and Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah on the most important issues on the Arab scene. The Arab situation requires all our countries to make efforts to consolidate joint Arab action to overcome the obstacles facing us, Klibi said. He asserted that the talks which he held with a number of Arab countries and the talks which he will hold in Bahrain will help in preparing for the next Arab meetings, particularly the Arab League Council meeting and the next Arab summit conference.

Amir Receives Message From Bangladesh Leader

GF041106 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0919 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Manama, 4 Mar (WAKH) — Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah today received a written message from Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, chief martial law administrator in Bangladesh. Mr (Tanweer Murshid), Bangladesh charge d'affaires in Bahrain, who delivered the message to the Bahraini amir during his meeting with him this morning, said that the message deals with bilateral relations and the means to strengthen them in various commercial and economic fields, especially with respect to banking. Mr (Murshid) said that the message also included a request to adopt measures necessary for bolstering cooperation between Bahrain and Bangladesh in the various fields of development.

KUWAIT

uf headlineFrench Defense Minister Holds Talks

LD051509 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1359 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Kuwait, 5 Mar (KUNA) — Today French Defense Minister Charles Hernu had talks here with senior Kuwaiti officials which focused on ways to strengthen bilateral relations. The visiting minister met with Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad aS-Sabah, who said that discussions concentrated on bilateral relations in addition to international issues of mutual interest, particularly the situation in the Middle East.

Shaykh as-Sabah told journalists that the visit of the French minister has no connection with the subject of selling French weapons to Kuwait. He pointed out that it has come in answer to an official invitation in response to the official visit of Kuwaiti defense Minister Shaykh Salim as-Sabah to France. However, official sources have mentioned that Kuwait and France have signed a military cooperation agreement according to which Kuwait could buy French weapons and equipment.

On his arrival last night as head of a French military delegation, Hernu stated that he will be discussing this subject if it is presented for discussion. The French minister held a meeting with his Kuwaiti counterpart during which they discussed bilateral relations and what is happening in the Middle East. Hernu leaves Kuwait tomorrow concluding a 3-day official visit.

Arab League Secretary Discusses Meetings

LD051723 Kuwait KUNA in English 1605 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Kuwait, March 5 (KUNA) — Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi described his meetings here with H.H. the Amir and Deputy Premier, Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as part of the regular meetings that precede an important session. Klibi who was addressing reporters at the Foreign Ministry Monday was referring to the upcoming session of the Arab League which will be held in Tunis on the 29 of this month. He added that he received from H.H. the amir and Shaykh Sabah recommendations and proposals for the session, but declined to mention what they were about. On the Arab summit, Klibi said it will not convene before the holy month of Ramadan (coinciding in June) to give committees more time to find common grounds for discussion presented to the Arab leaders.

The secretary general, who has been on a tour of the region, said he had discussed with Arab leaders up-to-the-minute issues such as the Palestinian problem, the Lebanese crisis and the Iraq-Iran war. Klibi described the war as "insane", and said its continuation will sap the people's energies and threaten regional and international security. He added that failure of all the past initiatives and peace resolutions should not be deterrent for more efforts to put an end to this bloody war, specially by the Muslim spiritual leaders.

On the possibility of calls for an urgent Arab summit to discuss the Gulf war issue, the Arab League secretary general said no member country has yet called for a summit or a meeting of foreign ministers which is a prerequisite for such meetings to convene. Klibi, who was on a visit to [words indistinct] said that he called the officials there for taking a stand on the war "since one side of its fighting parties is asking for international arbitration." He added that he pledged to the European leaders to abstain from "fueling that war."

Meanwhile, Klibi told Kuwait television that the Arab joint defense agreement should be activated at this time to support Iraq in the war politically and materially.

On his organization's role in solving inter-Arab conflicts, Klibi [word indistinct] the Arab League is faced now by great challenges which "drive us to seek help from the United Nations, regional organizations and even the superpowers."

(?He praised) the success of the Gulf countries in forming the Gulf Cooperation Council, which can be perceived as the first step toward a comprehensive arab unity. He pointed that other Arab countries should follow suit in forming such regional bodies and was more precise when he called on Arab Maghreb countries to form a similar organization.

Klibi was the guest of honor at a luncheon given by the deputy premier, Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmed at the Dasman Palace which was attended by the Foreign Ministry's undersecretary Rashid ar-Rashid and high ranking officials at the ministry, [words indistinct].

Amir Urges Gandhi To Help End Gulf War

BK040744 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] The Amir of Kuwait, Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, sent an urgent appeal yesterday to the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, to use her good offices as the chairperson of the Nonaligned Movement to end the Iran-Iraq war. He expressed serious concern over the new flare-up in the Gulf war. He has expressed his concern over the Iranian threat to close down the Strait of Hormuz.

Paper Notes Iranian 'Intransigence' in Gulf War

LD051107 Kuwait KUNA in English 1014 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Kuwait, March 5 (KUNA) — Daily *AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM* expressed pessimism over efforts to settle the Iraqi-Iranian war due to Iran's continuous refusal to end the war. The daily noted that Iraq has always been ready to respond to every mediation attempt "but the problem remains with Tehran." In reference to the Iranian leaders' determination on continuing the war, the paper said that due to the Iranian stance "all mediation efforts are to come to a dead end."

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM warned that Iran's intransigence tends to convince Iraq and the Arabs that the Arab-Iranian confrontation is "a destined fate." However, the daily expressed hope that the United States will not interfere in the Gulf region. "Let Washington leave us face our own difficulties and dangers," the paper said. The paper said that the Gulf dangers are less severe than "the dangers and difficulties, that would result from the American interference on the pretext of protecting the freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz."

"Therefore, the best protection and service the United States could render is to stay out of this game", the daily concluded.

OMAN

Sultan Qabus Receives Message From Senegalese Leader

GF051442 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id received written a message from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf. The letter was received by Fahd ibn Mahmud Al Bu Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs, when he received this morning in his office Senegalese Ambassador Moustapha Cisse and (Al-Haj Ahmad al-Kaf), assistant to the Senegalese president. During the meeting they conveyed the greetings of Senegalese President Abdou Diouf and his good wishes to the leader of the country and his wise government and Omani people. They presented a gift from his excellency to His Majesty Sultan Qabus.

PDRY

Vice Chairman Receives USSR Trade Delegation

GF051450 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Brother Staff Brigadier General 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar, member of the Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, met in his office today with the Soviet trade delegation led by Comrade Rudolf Makarov, deputy foreign trade minister. During the meeting, Brother 'Antar highly evaluated the international support and aid which the USSR extends to the PDRY in various fields. He noted that the party and government in the PDRY devote much attention to strengthening economic and trade relations with the friendly Soviet Union and other countries in the socialist bloc because it is a primary and basic issue in our party's policy and a guarantee for economic progress and its future prospects. He also evaluated the principled and unwavering stand of the Soviet Union toward the Arab cause and international causes in general.

Comrade Makarov expressed full satisfaction with the accomplishments that have been so far achieved in the PDRY. He affirmed that trade relations between the two countries will continue to develop in the best way possible and in a way that would serve the interest of the peoples in the two friendly countries. He noted that the trade protocol signed by the two countries this morning is an indication of the progress and development of these relations.

Hungarian Labor Delegation Meets YSP Official

GF051435 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received in his office at the Secretariat of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council the Hungarian labor delegation led by Comrade Janos Hoos, member of the MSZMP Central Committee and secretary of state for the National Planning Commission, who conveyed to him an oral message from Brother Janos Kadar, MSZMP first secretary.

During the meeting, they discussed aspects of cooperation between the two friendly parties and countries in various fields, means of strengthening them and a number of issues of common interest. Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad praised the level of relations between the PDRY and the Hungarian People's Republic in party, political, cultural and economic fields. Comrade

Janos Hoos expressed pleasure over his visit to the PDRY. He was briefed on the progress of the revolution experience in the PDRY under the YSP. He affirmed that his visit, meetings and talks with a number of officials will bolster relations between the two friendly countries. The brother chairman asked him to convey his good wishes to Comrade Janos Kadar.

Cooperation Protocol Signed

GF051955 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] A party cooperation protocol between the YSP and MSZMP was signed today. On the Yemeni side, the protocol was signed by Brother Mahmud an-Najashi, member of the YSP Central Committee and deputy secretary of the Central Committee, while on the Hungarian side it was signed by Comrade Janos Hoos, member of the MSZMP Central Committee and secretary of state of the national planning office. Brother 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, met with the Hungarian party delegation in his office today. During this meeting, views on party and government cooperation between the two friendly parties and countries and the situation on the Arab and international arenas were discussed. During this meeting, the importance of strengthening and developing the struggle relations between the two friendly countries, parties and peoples on the basis of the friendship and cooperation agreement between the two countries was affirmed.

Cabinet Affairs Minister Returns From YAR

GF050436 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Brother 'Abdallah Ahmad Ghanim, candidate member of the YSP Central Committee and minister of state for Cabinet affairs, returned to Aden from Ta'izz today after leading the southern side in the meetings of the seventh session of the Yemeni Council Secretariat which concluded yesterday evening in Ta'izz. In a statement to ANA, Brother 'Abdallah Ahmad Ghanim said that during this session an agreement was reached on all the measures to be taken by all the concerned sides in the two parts in order to implement the resolutions of the second session of the Supreme Yemeni Council which convened in Aden in mid-February, under the chairmanship of Brothers 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers; and Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress in the northern part of the homeland.

ATH-THAWRI Warns Against U.S. Threats to Gulf Region

GF030550 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] The newspaper *ATH-THAWRI*, the YSP Central Committee's organ, today reaffirmed the PDRY's warning against the threats of the U.S. activities in the Gulf region, considering these activities to be an overt violation of our national sovereignty, an unveiled defiance of the laws of international relations, and an example of crude intervention in the affairs of the region's countries. The paper said in the editorial of its today's issue that by keeping the U.S. presence and influence away from events in the region, the appropriate atmosphere for the peaceful settlement of the problems among its countries can be provided through respecting their peoples national choices. The paper added that as the U.S. imperialist plan in Lebanon entered a serious predicament following the hostile goals of the presence of NATO forces and upon the start of the process of increasing change in the local balance of power in the interest of the nationalist movement and the Lebanese people, the fever of U.S. military threats was shifted to the Arabian Gulf region under the pretext of the existing escalation in the Iraqi-Iranian war and under the pretext that oil exports from the region's countries to the United States and Europe may stop. *ATH-THAWRI* stressed that Washington itself has contributed to increasing tension and war in the region and has played a big role, directly or through its allies, in keeping the war going on for 3 and 1/2 years.

QATAR

PLO Official Arrives on Area Tour

GF020700 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0750 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Doha, 2 Mar (WAKH) — Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived here at an early hour today on a visit to Qatar within a tour of a number of countries in the region. Abu Mazin said this visit aims at informing officials in Qatar of the outcome of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks which were concluded in Amman yesterday and of the latest developments in relations between Qatar and the PLO. In a statement to QNA, Abu Mazin said the visit by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to Jordan has special importance because it came after a suspension of contacts between the two sides for a period of about 1 year. He emphasized that this visit will be a firm basis for relations between the two peoples through continued dialogue and enhancing of the strong ties linking them.

Meets Amir

GF031223 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani received PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas in his office at Ad-Dawhah Palace at 1000 today. The meeting was attended by Mr Yasin Ash-Sharif, PLO representative in Doha. QNA has learned that Mr 'Abbas informed his highness the amir of the results of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks held in Amman last week as well as the latest developments in the Palestinian question on both Arab and international levels. Mr 'Abbas made a special mention to the amir of the situation of the citizens inside the occupied land and what they are subjected to daily by the occupation authorities.

Departs For Kuwait

GF040706 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0535 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Doha, 3 Mar (WAKH) PLO Executive Committee member, Mr Mahmud 'Abbas (alias Abu Mazin), left Doha for Kuwait this evening, on his way to Tunis after a 2-day visit to Qatar.

Oil Minister Receives Eritrean Delegation

GF041340 Doha QNA in Arabic 1120 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Doha, 4 Mar (QNA) — Qatari Finance and Oil Minister Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani met today with Mr Osman Saleh Sabbe, chairman of the Eritrean Liberation Front-The Popular Liberation Forces, and with his accompanying delegation who are currently visiting Doha. Mr Sabbe stated after the meeting that they reviewed the situation in the Eritrean arena and the Horn of Africa as well as curent developments. He said that he found the minister of finance and oil very understanding and sympathetic toward the just struggle of the Eritrean people.

Delegation Departs

GF051022 Doha QNA in Arabic 0836 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Doha, 5 Mar (WNA) — Mr Osman Saleh Sabbe, chairman of the Eritrean Liberation Front-Popular Liberation Force, left Doha for Abu Dhabi this morning following a 1-week visit to the State of Qatar within his tour of a number of the region's states.

Iranian Official Conveys Velayati Message

GF021118 Tehran Television Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Brother Lavasani, director general of the Arab and African department at the Foreign Ministry, met with the Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs in Doha on 1 March and conveyed to him a written message from Brother Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The charge d'affaires of the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Doha and the director general of the Qatari Foreign Ministry's political department attended. Bilateral relations and the situation in the area were discussed during the meeting.

Dailies on Possible Repercussions of Gulf War

GF040850 Doha QNA in Arabic 0618 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Doha, 4 Mar (QNA) — The Qatari newspaper *AL-'ARAB* and *AR-RAYAH* have expressed concern over the serious escalation in the developments of the Iraqi-Iranian war and the possible results of these developments such as foreign interventions in the region. In its editorial today, the newspaper *AL-'ARAB* stressed that the extensive presence of the U.S. naval vessels in the region's territorial waters under the pretext of preparing to act if the Strait of Hormuz is closed, is considered an escalation of the U.S. muscle-flexing policy in a region where all the countries oppose any foreign presence, because of the dangers posed to them by such a presence.

The paper explained that, through demonstrating its presence, the U.S. Administration seeks to find the justification for creating some sort of tension in this vital region, which is completely opposed by the region's states on the basis of their belief that the protection of the region is the responsibility of the countries of the region. The paper pointed out that the U.S. Administration is trying to fish in muddy waters by putting forth feeble pretexts and excuses to justify its military presence in the Gulf. In this regard, the paper demanded a quick action to end the Iraqi-Iranian war which the superpowers are using as an excuse in order to intervene in the region's affairs, because stopping this war will thwart their intervention attempts.

The Qatari newspaper *AR-RAYAH* stressed that the figures published by both sides of the Iraqi-Iranian war about their losses are horrifying and are an indication that the Islamic nation, which both are part of, is incapable of stopping the bloodshed between the two. *AR-RAYAH* said that the Islamic nation's inability to stop this war shows that it is incapable of even implementing the Islamic rules in such a case, that is, when two Muslim communities dispute. The newspaper noted, in this regard, the danger represented in the escalation of this war's developments and said that news reports expect that the most violent and most dangerous development in the course of this war will take place in the coming days in light of the huge military deployments made by both sides prior to a widening episode of this war.

The paper explained that if the expectations of news reports about the huge military preparations and deployments that both sides are preparing in order to wage a new tough and decisive stage of this war come true, Iraq will certainly resort to all avaialble means in order to deter the expected attack against its territory. Toward the end of its editorial, the paper called for ending further bloodshedding and putting an end to this long, bloody dangerous war.

SAUDI ARABIA

Council of Ministers Review Recent Developments

LD052148 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2120 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Damman, 5 Mar (SPA) — The Council of Ministers held a meeting tonight under the chairmanship of his majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. After the meeting Information Minister 'Ali ash-Sha'ir said that at the beginning of the session the Council of Ministers reviewed the most important current political and security events in the Arab arena and was briefed with news agencies reports about certain new developments with regard to the progress of the Lebanese issue.

Foreign Minister Comments on Ties With Spain
PM011652 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Mar 84 pp 1,4

[As-Sirr Sayyid Ahmad report: "Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal Warns: Iraq-Iran War Will Lead to Foreign Intervention"]

[Excerpts] Riyadh — Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal yesterday warned of the dangers of the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war and the possibility of foreign intervention in the area. He also warned of Israel's aggressive and expansionist policy and clarified the Kingdom's attitude toward Lebanon's abrogation of the 17 May agreement, affirming its respect for Lebanese legitimacy and independent administration and its understanding of the abrogation.

Prince Sa'ud was speaking at a press conference yesterday (Wednesday) morning at the end of a 3-day visit to the Kingdom by Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez during which talks were held between King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and the Spanish guest. He said that the talks dealt with all the problems and issues in the area and all the aspects of bilateral relations. He said that both sides' views agreed on all issues discussed. He stressed the importance of the visit in view of the critical conditions in the area. He stressed that the visit will have a great impact on boosting Saudi-Spanish relations in all fields, Saudi-Spanish relations in particular and Arab-Spanish relations in general are witnessing an important and useful development in the interest of both countries, the Arab people, and the Spanish people.

He added that the joint analysis of these problems would enable both countries to deal with them either bilaterally or at the international level when these problems are discussed in international forums.

He described Saudi-Spanish relations as strong and solid and founded on a firm basis. He stressed that the visit gave a new impetus to these relations and will have a tangible effect on the bilateral relations in the economic, political, and other fields.

Referring to the close historical ties between Spain and the Arab world, he stressed that Spain can appraise the situation and be very familiar with the real situation with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict. It also can play a major role in making the Western world and international circles understand the reality of the Middle East problem. He confirmed the Arab world's adherences to right and justice, the return of the Palestinian people to their land, the realization of their self-determination, and the return of the occupied Arab territories to the Arab countries.

Prince Sa'ud said: On the grounds of the justice of our cause, we expect cooperation on the part of Spain, which believes in justice and fairness and has a historical role in Europe, the American Continent, the Middle East, and the Arab countries. He explained that Israel is the real obstacle to the achievement of any progress toward peace in the area as so far it has not given any indication that it accepts the UN resolutions on the Middle East, including the implementation of Resolution 242, withdrawal from the occupied territories, and giving the right of self-determination to the Palestinians. He cited in this regard the Egyptian-Israeli (Camp David) agreement which met all Israel's security and other demands and provided for Egypt's recognition of Israel and diplomatic relations with it. Yet this did not lead to Israel recognizing the Palestinian people's rights to a state or even to withdrawal from all the occupied Egyptian territories since there are still negotiations regarding the Taba area.

Asked by *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* about dealing with the problem that will be created by the abrogation of the 17 May Lebanese-Israeli agreement, he said that since this agreement was concluded the Kingdom's view has been that the final say in this matter belongs toLebanon. He pointed out that the agreement signed on 17 May last year has not been implemented and did not lead to the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon. He said that the abrogation of this agreement or otherwise is up to the Lebanese president. If he finds that its abrogation is in the interests of restoring Lebanese accord then this would be in the interest of Lebanon. He said: What is important in my view is the soundness and firmness of the Lebanese stand and Lebanese accord on which everything depends, particularly Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

French Foreign Trade Minister Welcomed in Riyadh
LD051553 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1425 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] French Minister of Foreign Trade and Tourism Edith Cresson arrived in Riyadh this afternoon for a visit to the Kingdom, due to last a few days, as part of a tour to a number of states of the region. She was welcomed at the airport by His Excellency the Minister of Trade Dr Sulayman as-Salim; Under Secretary of the Ministry of Trade Dr 'Abd ar-Rahman az-Zamil; French Ambassador to the Kingdom Pierre Rocalve; and by senior officials from the Ministry of Trade.

UAE President, Bahraini Heir Apparent Depart
GF032010 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Excerpt] UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan left the King Khalid International Airport this evening. He was seen off at the airport by His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force; His Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general; His Highness Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, prince of the Riyadh region; and a number of senior officials. His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force, also left King Khalid International Airport this evening.

SPA: Chatti Urges U.S. Not To Move Tel Aviv Embassy
LD031856 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1810 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Jidda, 3 Mar (SPA) — ICO Secretary General Habib Chatti has emphasized that the organization will adhere to all the international resolutions rejecting the Zionist entity's annex-

ation of the occupied city of Jerusalem, and particularly resolution No 478 adopted by the UN Security Council in 1980 which urges all states with diplomatic missions in occupied Jerusalem to withdraw these missions from the holy city.

In a statement released today, Chatti mentioned the debates in the American Congress on a request to the American Administration to transfer its embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem, stressing that any new tendency to violate the Security Council's resolution binding all the UN member states will be considered a blatant violation of international law and an adoption of the principle of the occupation of others territories by force.

He said that any decision taken by the American Congress in this respect will be considered defiance in the face of international will and an infringement on Arab and Islamic sensitivities. Chatti called on the American Administration and American public to counter such a move. He also urged the Arab and Islamic states to strive by all means to prevent any American decision in response to Congress which would serve the interests of the Zionist entity and back up its aggressive policies and its illegal practices in Jerualem and the occupied Palestinian and Arab lands.

Dailies Condemn U.S. Embassy Move to Jerusalem

LD041407 Riyadh SPA in English 1213 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Riyadh, March 4, SPA — Saudi newspapers commented editorially today on the planned visit by HM King Fahd to the eastern region this week, discussion in the U.S. Congress to move the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to holy Jerusalem and the situation in the civil-war torn Lebanon. *AL-NADWA* meanwhile commented on the current discussions in the American Congress over the shifting of the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to the occupied holy Jerusalem. The paper asked what are the benefits in moving the embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem until the Congress members present a draft resolution to their respected Congress on this issue. The paper said the Congress act was against the U.N. resolutions in this connection.

The paper underlined the statement issued by the Saudi Embassy in Washington on last Friday in which it said the act was a naked challenge to the feelings of Muslims and Arabs. It condemned the American Congressmen who were mislead by the Zionist propaganda and who were blindly serving the Zionist interests.

AR-RIYAD on Abrogation of Lebanon-Israel Accord

GF060518 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 6 Mar 84

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Under the headline "What Comes Next After the Abrogation of the 17 May Agreement?" The newspaper *AR-RIYAD* said: The basic issue is actually that all the Lebanese are demanded to make the settlement a historic decision, even if this leads to huge concessions by all the sides, so that Lebanon will forget the years of destruction and killing and will become a free homeland governed by the principle of nationalism. These are the aspirations of all those who consider Lebanon the homeland of all the free people.

UAE

Zayid Receives Mauritanian President's Message

GF051020 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Excerpt] President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan today received a written message from Mauritanian President Khouna Ould Haydala on new developments in the Arab Maghreb region and on bilateral relations and the means to bolster them. The message was delivered by Mohamed Fadel Ould Dah, Mauritanian minister of water, supply, and energy, during his meeting with the president at al-Mushrif Palace this morning.

President Receives Somali President's Message

GF051023 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Excerpt] President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a message from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre on the current Arab developments, the situation in the Horn of Africa, bilateral relations, and the means to bolster them. The message was delivered by Somali Foreign Minister Abdurahman Jama Barre during his meeting with the president at al-Mushrif Palace this morning.

Further Details

GF060539 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1950 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 5 Mar (WAKH) — Surur ibn Muhammad, chief of the UAE president's office, met here today with Abdurahman Jama Barre, Somali foreign affairs minister; and Ahmed Habib Ahmed, Juba Valley development minister; who are currently visiting Abu Dhabi. Following the meeting, the foreign affairs minister stated that the two sides discussed bilateral relations, particularly economic ties. They also exchanges views on the current developments in the Arab world.

French Trade Minister Departs for Riyadh

GF051443 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1404 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 5 Mar (WAKH) — Edith Cresson, French minister of trade and tourism, left Abu Dhabi for Riyadh today after a 3-day visit to the UAE within her current tour of a number of countries in the region.

Official Urges Arabizing Foreign Labor

GF021112 Doha QNA in Arabic 0950 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Dubayy, 2 Mar (QNA) — Ahmad al-Jumayri, under secretary at the UAE Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, has repeated his call for Arabizing labor in the UAE as a first step to nationalizing it. He called for the UAE to use technology on a wider scale to minimize the use of foreign expatriates and to increase the number of nationals to make a balance in the UAE's current population structure. This came in a lecture delivered by Al-Jumayri last night at the seminar on the legal aspects of implementing the projects which is being organized by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing in Dubayy in which he dealt with the negative aspects of foreign labor, particularly social, security and cultural sides.

Al-Jumayri asserted that there is a dominant feature of employment in the country, noting that its risks make it incumbent upon all concerned organs in the UAE to eliminate it. He indicated that the basis of labor manpower planning in the UAE in the future should be tied to the citizen on studied principles to prepare nationals to assume responsibilities in various government sectors.

YAR

Yemeni Council Secretariat Concludes Meetings

GF041940 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] In an honest fraternal atmosphere which was filled with a spirit of responsibility and in light of the constant care of the two presidents, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and the secretary general of the General People's Congress; and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers in the southern part of the homeland; the meetings of the seventh session of the Yemeni Council Secretariat concluded in Ta'izz today under chairmanship of brothers Ahmad Ash-Shijni, minister of state for cabinet affairs and chairman of the northern side; and 'Abdallah Ahmad Ghanim, minister of state for Cabinet affairs and chairman of the southern side in the Secretariat. During this session issues on the agenda were reviewed and the Secretariat achieved positive results which help in executing all the steps and resolutions issued by the meetings of the second session of the Yemeni Council which was held in Aden.

Brothers Ahmad Ash-Shijni and 'Abdallah Ahmad Ghanim made a statement to SANA' News Agency which said: We concluded the seventh session, which was held in a fraternal and friendly atmosphere, and agreed on various points which the Secretariat was assigned to follow up by the Supreme Yemeni Council. They added: We are confident that all the ministries, establishments and organs in both parts, which will be informed by the Secretariat on the decisions of the Supreme Yemeni Council, will make all efforts towisely and loyally execute the decisions which will serve the interest of the Yemeni people and strengthen the unitary work supervised by the two political leaderships in the two parts.

ATH-THAWRAH on U.S. Embassy Move to Jerusalem

GF040650 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Mar 84

[From press review]

[Excerpt] In its editorial today, the newspaper *ATH-THAWRAH* commented on the warning by the ICO secretary general to the U.S. Administration against the repercussions of getting dragged toward the game being played by the Zionist wing in the U.S. Congress in order to transfer the U.S. embassy to occupied Jerusalem. The paper said that the U.S. Administration was in great need of hearing voices such as the voice of the islamic League's [as heard] secretary general, the voice of the Arab League's secretary general, and the voices of the Arab leaders before it embroiled itself with the signing of the Zionist-U.S. strategic cooperation agreement; before it withdrew from UNESCO; before it embroiled the greatest Arab country in the Camp David agreement; before it worked for the removal of the Palestinian revolution from Lebanon [words indistinct] the Iraqi nuclear reserach center; and before manipulating U.S. laws and its constitution in order to surrender Palestinian struggler Ziyad Abu 'Ayn. If it had only heard such voices, it would not have directed this series of hostile actions toward the Arabs. However, silence — and in such cases silence implies consent — made it proceed and continue its measures believing that the Arabs and the Muslims are the last people to think of [words indistinct], although the United States — and this is the truth — does not stop defending its interests even if it has to use force. Thus, Habib Chatti's warnings are the first of this kind.

MENA Interviews EEC's Thorn on Mideast Affairs

NC051032 Cairo MENA in English 1015 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, March 5 (MENA) — Head of the European Economic Community Commission Gaston Thorn today invited the Arab and European sides to resume their dialogue without any pre-conditions, with the aim of promoting Arab-European cooperation. Thorn, now on a visit to Egypt, said that the lack of sufficient mutual trust at the beginning of the dialogue had caused it to stop.

In an exclusive interview with the MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY, the EEC official said that the European side was looking forward to cooperation with a unified Arab world rather than a fragmented one. He said that it is not in the interest of the Arabs to be divided nor to have Egypt stay away from other Arab forces. Thorn said that Arab unity is a basic prerequisite for solution of the Mideast problem. Thorn denied that the EEC intends to put forward a new initiative for a peaceful Mideast settlement. He said that he does not believe it would be useful at present to introduce changes or modifications to the EEC Venice declaration, but expected the EEC to put forward, in the next three months, all available initiatives after giving them priorities. The EEC official said that France's decision to withdraw its contingent in Lebanon does not mean that it was giving up Lebanon.

On his talks in Jordan before arriving in Cairo, Thorn said that he was briefly advised during his meetings with the Jordanian prime minister on the outcome of discussions between King Husayn and PLO Leader Yasir 'Arafat. He said he felt that Jordanian officials were concerned over the future of the Palestinian people, especially in the occupied territories, because of the fact that attention was now concentrated on the Lebanese crisis and the Iran-Iraq war.

Thorn said that the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue should be encouraged, especially by Europe. He said he was confident that the EEC will follow the development of that dialogue to see what help could be offered.

On Egyptian-EEC relations, Thorn said that the EEC is Egypt's first trade partner. He called on Egypt to rectify the current balance of trade deficit in favour of the EEC. He said this would require activation of trade with the Community, plus reassessment of studies on joint ventures.

Thorn arrived in Cairo last night from Amman, for a two-day visit to Egypt. He had last visited Egypt in 1980 when he was the prime minister of Luxembourg. He has been head of the EEC commission since January 1981.

Mubarak Receives Thorn

NC051208 Cairo MENA in English 1020 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, March 5 (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received today at Al-'Urubah Palace Gaston Thorn, chairman of the EEC Commission, currently visiting here with an accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Egypt's Ambassador to Belgium Ahmad Mahir and the EEC representative here.

Maldives President's Message to Mubarak

NC051159 Cairo MENA in English 1025 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, March 5 (MENA) — Visiting Foreign Minister of the Republic of Maldives Fathuilah Jameel said today that he had conveyed to President Husni Mubarak a personal message from Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom on promoting cooperation and friendship between the two countries.

Jameel, who was received earlier today by President Mubarak, said the message also dealt with Mideast developments as well as Arab and Islamic issues. He said he thanked President Mubarak for his interest in the causes of the Maldives and other Islamic countries.

'Ali Meets Maldivian Minister

NC052036 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1845 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 5 Mar (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, tonight met with Fathulla Jameel, Maldivian minister of external affairs, who arrived in Cairo yesterday on a 3-day visit to Egypt. During the meeting, views were exchanged on matters of common interest and the feasibility of enhancing bilateral cooperation in various fields was discussed.

Abu Ghazalah Holds Talks on Arms in UK

For reportage on Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense and War Production 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah's visit to the United Kingdom, including his talks with UK Defense Secetary Michael Heseltine on UK-Egyptian arms cooperation, see the United Kingdom section of the 5 March Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

'Ali on Delegation's Visit to Tabah Area

NC041625 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 4 Mar (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has emphasized that Egypt is giving tenacious attention to the Tabah area lest there be stands which might harm Egypt's interests.

In a statement today, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said the recent visit to the Tabah area by a Foreign Ministry delegation led by Assistant Foreign Minister Ash-Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid aimed at inspecting the situation in the area to consider the application of the April 1982 accord.

MAY Cites British Archives on Tabah Identity

NC032154 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2143 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 3 Mar (MENA) — In tomorrow's issue the news paper *MAY* reports that Egypt has sent a group of jurists and researchers to London to examine British documents pertinent to the Egyptian-Israeli borders in the Tabah area.

The aforementioned documents are stored in the Central British Archives Center in London. The paper points out that these documents confirm that Tabah is Egyptian and refutes Israel's pretexts.

Hungary's Vansca Signs Agricultural Protocol

NC030700 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0621 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 3 Mar (MENA) — Dr Jeno Vansca, Hungarian minister of agriculture and food, left Cairo this morning following a week-long visit. During his visit, he was received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Dr Yusuf Wali, minister of state for agriculture and food security.

An Egyptian-Hungarian agricultural cooperation protocol was signed during the visit. The protocol stipulates cooperation in the domains of agricultural and animal production, as well as in agricultural mechanization and training.

Omani Official Ends Visit to Cairo 2 Mar

NC021348 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1203 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 2 Mar (MENA) — 'Umar az-Zawawi, adviser to Sultan Qabus Ibn Sa'id of Oman, left Cairo today following a 1-day visit to Egypt.

Somali Defense Minister Arrives 5 March

NC050710 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Cairo, 5 Mar (MENA) — Lieutenant General Mohammed Ali Samantar, Somali first vice president and defense minister, arrived in Cairo early this morning on an official visit lasting a few days. He was received at the airport by minister Dr Mustafa as-Sa'id, minister of economy and foreign trade.

Paper on Detention of Al-Jihad Members

NC030612 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2313 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 2 Mar (MENA) — The newspaper *AKHBAR AL-YAWM* reports that the State Criminal Investigation Department has detained a group from the Al-Jihad Organization. That group was attempting to engage in activities aimed at organizing their ranks and masterminding a sabotage operation. In its edition to be published Saturday, the paper says the movements of the group's 10 members had been under observation by security authorities since the beginning.

MAY, SDP Organ, To Become Daily 1 March

PM021157 [Editorial Report] The Cairo-based, Arabic-language *MAY* announces, on 27 February 1984, in an editorial by Chief Editor Sabri Abu al-Majd that, as of 1 March 1984, the paper, which is the SDP organ, will be published daily instead of weekly "in order to complete its patriotic and partisan mission, thus becoming the first party daily in 32 years."

U.S. Denounced on Chemical Weapons Statement

JN061213 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Mar (INA) — Iraq has denounced a statement by a U.S. State Department spokesman accusing Iraq of using chemical weapons against the Iranian forces. In a statement to INA today, an Iraqi spokesman asserted that the U.S. statement contained many fallacies [mughalatat] and repeated the Iranian regime's lies. He said that the U.S. spokesman has leveled accusations based on unconfirmed allegations, while using diplomatic language in talking about Iran's flagrant aggression against Iraq's sovereignty, security, and people.

The Iraqi spokesman strongly denounced the U.S. spokesman's statement and described it as hypocritical. He said: We cannot separate this statement from the ill intentions that have been expressed by U.S. stands toward Iraq and the aggression to which Iraq is being exposed. The spokesman strongly rejected allegations that Iraq has been using chemical weapons and said that these allegations were aimed at diverting attention from the Iranian aggression against Iraq and casting doubt on Iraq's legitimate right of self-defense.

The spokesman said that Iraq will fiercely strike at the Iranian aggressors and will teach them well deserved lessons because they are committing aggression against Iraq's land and people. He said: We will certainly ignore these allegations because we know their causes and intentions.

The spokesman also said that such a hypocritical statement by the U.S. State Department is meant to cover up for a well known fact in this world, namely, that the United States is the last country in this world that can talk about morality in wars. He said that the United States is the only country in the world to use nuclear weapons. They used them against Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II allegedly to shorten the war and reduce the number of victims. He said the atrocities that the U.S. forces committed in Vietnam and the intentional bombing of civilian targets in Lebanon is sufficient proof of this.

Armed Forces Issues Communique No 1,395 — 5 Mar

JN051734 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,395 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 5 March 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces, which taught the aggressor Iranian forces eloquent lessons in courage, sacrifice, and audacity, will remain — God willing — at the peak of their strength and victories. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our bold helicopter gunships today raided the enemy positions — both personnel and vehicular concentrations — east of Basra, dealing direct and effective blows and inflicting losses in men and equipment. All of our helicopter gunships returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. Our forward units fired various weapons on the enemy positions and concentrations opposite our positions east of Basra, killing two, wounding others, and destroying one tank.

3. One of our forward units opened fire on an enemy 81-mm gun opposite our positions in the Maysan sector; they managed to destroy it and kill the crew. Elsewhere in the same sector, one infantry position and six boats were destroyed. Fire was seen gutting the boats.

4. Fresh groups of Iranians, fleeing the hell of Khomeyni and his criminal clique, sought refuge with our forward units in the northern sector of the battlefield. They were safely evacuated to the rear.

5. One observation post, one hardware stockpile, and three infantry positions were destroyed and their occupants killed in the central sector of the battlefield.

6. The criminal Khomeyniite clique shelled Basra, Khanaqin, Mandali, Zurbatiyah, and their suburbs with heavy artillery yesterday evening and today. The savage enemy shelling martyred 1 civilian, wounded 10 others, and damaged 2 houses and 4 civilian cars in Basra; martyred 1 civilian, wounded 3 others, destroyed 4 houses, and damaged 7 houses, 2 elementary schools, and 1 civilian car in Khanaqin; and damaged several civilian properties in Mandali and Zurbatiyah.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 5 March 1984.

Commander Briefs Reporters on Recent Battles

JN051857 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Excerpts] East Basra, 5 Mar (INA) — Major General Mahir 'Abd ar-Rashid, commander of the III Army Corps — Al-Qadisiyah forces — has emphasized that the Iraqi Armed Froces are prepared to crush and destroy any new adventure against our international borders by the Iranian regime's forces.

Speaking to a new group of Arab and world press, news agency, and radio and television correspondents at a position east of Basra today, he added that during the epic-like battles east of Basra the Iranian regime lost the 92d Division, one of its best divisions. This division was sent to rescue the human waves that were wiped out by the Qutaybah, Al-Muthanna, and Sa'd forces. He added that Tabataba'i, commander of the offensive, as well as several formation and regiment commanders were wounded in the offensive against our international borders.

He said that not all the III Army Corps divisions took part in crushing the Iranian forces east of Basra, adding that the other divisions look forward to participating in a second epic east of Basra. He indicated that the spiteful Iranian regime sent 20,000 victims to the crematorium of death at the (Ghuzayl) axis after failing to achieve its military aims in the marsh area.

The III Army Corps commander said that the Iranian plan was based on sending successive regiments of Khomeyni guards, supported by regular Army units and artillery fire. However, he added, the Iraqis repulsed all offensives and inflicted a unique catastrophe on the enemy.

The Arab and foreign reporters visited several positions that had participated in the battles east of Basra, met with the commanders and soldiers of formations, and saw the Iranian enemy losses in men and equipment.

Syrian Opposition Reports Coup Attempt Arrests

JN051536 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] London, 5 Mar (INA) — Syrian opposition sources said here today that the Syrian regime arrested hundreds of officers, soldiers, lawyers, engineers, physicians, teachers, and men of religion last week after a coup attempt aimed at toppling the regime was discovered. These sources told INA today that Hafiz al-Asad's men used all techniques to torture the detainees, whose families were prevented from visiting them in the Syrian prisons. They added that military patrols began to roam the streets of the main Syrian cities for fear of any coup atempt.

Ramadan Receives Turkish Official, Message

JN051650 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, March 5, INA — Iraqi First Deputy Premier Taha Yasin Ramadan received today a written message from Turkish Premier Turgut Ozal dealt with bilateral relations and means of further developing them. The message was handed by Ekrem Pakdemirli, senior official at the Turkish Foreign Trade Ministry. Ramadan, during the meeting, stressed Iraq's keenness to consolidate relations of cooperation with Turkey in all fields in a way that serves the joint interests of the neighbourly countries.

Business Delegation Holds Talks

TA051654 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1600 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] A Turkish delegation composed of representatives from public economic enterprises and the private sector is holding contacts in Baghdad, Iraq. The head of the delegation, Ekrem Pakdemirli, who is the under secretary for treasury and foreign trade, held separate meetings today with First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan, Industry and Minerals Minister Subhi Yasin Khudayr, and with the Trade Ministry under secretary. The talks, during which the commercial and economic relations between the two countries were discussed, were positive.

Visit by CSSR Finance Minister Continues

Ler, Delegation Meet Ministers

JN031241 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1055 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Mar (INA) — Housing and Reconstruction Minister Muhammad Fadil Husayn met with CSSR Finance Minister Leopold Ler and his delegation today. The two sides discussed the aspects of bilateral relations and the means of promoting them in the interest of the two friendly peoples.

Transport and Communications Minister 'Abd al-Jabbar 'Abd ar-Rahim also met with the Czechoslovak official today. They discussed the prospects of developing bilateral relations and promoting cooperation in the fields of transportation and communications.

Tariq 'Aziz Receives Minister

JN031821 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1803 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Mar (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here this evening with CSSR Finance Minister Leopold Ler, who is currently visiting Iraq. During the meeting, the two sides discussed Iraqi-CSSR relations and the means of promoting these relations within the framework of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly countries. The talks dealt with the situation in the region and international issues of common interest.

Ramadan Confers With Ler

JN041655 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Mar (INA) — First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan today met with CSSR Finance Minister Leopold Ler and his delegation. During the meeting, Taha Yasin Ramadan talked about the development of bilateral relations in various fields and expressed his confidence that the meetings of the sixth session of the joint Iraqi-CSSR committee will lead to positive results that will contribute to the promotion of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly countries, which are characterized by their deep-rooted ties of friendship and cooperation.

Taha Yasin Ramadan reviewd the Iraqi-Iranian war and expressed the Iraqi people's high preparedness to defend their homeland and implement the economic projects. The two sides discussed the situation in the region and other international issues of common interest.

Cooperation Agreement Signed 5 Mar

JN052036 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Iraq and Czechoslovakia today signed an agreement on technical and scientific cooperation. Planning Minister Samal Majid Faraj signed it for Iraq, and Finance Minister Leopold Ler signed it for the CSSR.

In a word exchanged after the agreement was signed, the planning minister praised the developed bilateral relations that serve the two countries' peoples. The CSSR minister said his visit to Iraq has contributed to bolstering relations between the two friendly countries. Representatives of a number of ministries and the delegation accompanying the finance minister attended the signing ceremony.

YAR Envoy Arrives in Baghdad With Message

JN022104 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Mar (INA) — Dr Hasan Makki, adviser to YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his personal envoy to President Saddam Husayn, arrived in Baghdad tonight. Makki said that he bears a message from President Salih to his brother President Saddam Husayn.

Saddam Husayn Receives Envoy

JN031341 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1318 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] President Saddam Husayn received here today Dr Hasan Makki, YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's adviser and personal envoy to President Saddam Husayn. Dr Makki conveyed an oral message to the president from President Salih. The message expressed the support of the YAR people, government, and president for Iraq in its just battle against the Iranian aggressors, and praised the heroism of the Iraqi Armed Forces and their victories over the enemy forces in defense of Arab land and dignity.

President Saddam Husayn expressed his profound appreciation for the sentiments expressed by the fraternal Yemei Government and people — sentiments that confirm the genuine Arab character of the Yemeni people, government, and president. The president affirmed to the YAR envoy that the Iraqi forces have crushed the enemy attacks and will crush any further attacks that they may be planning.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the YAR ambassador in Baghdad attended the meeting.

YAR Official Offers Support

JN040736 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0606 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Mar (INA) — Dr Hasan Makki, YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's adviser, has called for the adoption of an official pan-Arab stand on Iraq's side for confronting the Iranian regime's aggression.

In an interview with *AL-JUMHURIYAH* today Dr Makki said that the nature of the war against Iraq cannot justify the silence that some Arab parties are observing on the war being waged against Iraq or the hesitation by some Arab rulers in adopting an open stand.

Dr Makki told *AL-JUMHURIYAH* that his country is ready to place all its potential at Iraq's disposal. Dr Makki, who is visiting Iraq as YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's envoy, said a pan-Arab stand in support of Iraq will first of all be in defense of the Arabs before being in defense of Iraq which excel in repulsing the aggression and teaching the aggressors the harshest lessons. Dr Makki said that the YAR is exerting efforts seeking to achieve the unity of Arab ranks at least from the premise of the minimum resolutions that were agreed to at the Baghdad summit.

The YAR president's personal envoy yesterday conveyed a verbal message to President Saddam Husayn expressing the support of the YAR people, government, and president for Iraq in its just battle against the Iranian aggressors.

Envoy Leaves With Message

JN042138 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2045 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 4 Mar (INA) — Dr Hasan Makki, the YAR president's adviser and personal envoy to President Saddam Husayn, left Baghdad tonight. He told INA that he is carrying a reply message from President Saddam Husayn to YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, expressing Iraq's appreciation of the YAR's stand toward the war Iraq is waging against Iran.

Ma'ruf Addresses Arab Labor Conference

JN042036 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Mar (INA) — The 12th session of the Arab labor conference, which will last 10 days, opened here today.

Iraqi Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf delivered aspeech which he began by greeting the delegations participating in the conference and by expressing his wish that the conference will produce fruitful and constructive results.

Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf said: The convocation of the conference at this crucial time in the Arab homeland acquires a special importance and meaning, particularly since it coincides with the intensification of the colonialist and Zionist onslaught and with the exacerbation of foreign ambitions against our Arab lands.

He emphasized that the importance of the meeting lies in the fact that it deals with the frameworks and formulas of cooperation in one of the most important and most prominent fields on which our developing Arab society is based — that is, the field of labor where new bricks are added to the edifice of joint Arab action and where the foundations on which this edifice is built are expanded.

Ma'ruf then reviewed the colonialist and Zionist ambitions against the Arab homeland and said: The Arab homeland's huge and rich natural resources and its important strategic position have made this homeland the focus of attention and a target for colonialist and foreign ambitions in all their forms and designs . He added: Proceeding from this fact, our Arab countries waged a bitter pan-Arab struggle against colonialism for the sake of obtaining their political independence and national sovereignty.

Referring to the Iranian ambitions against the Arab Gulf — ambitions which took several forms and were led by armed aggression — he said: Some may imagine that the Iranian regime's aggression is aimed only against Iraq, whereas all indications and facts show that the Iranian regime's ambitions are unlimited and do not stop at the borders of Iraq and the Arab Gulf states. They extend farther in order to spread Iran's hegemony and influence over various other countries.

He added: This regime has frankly called, via its news media, for the exportation of what it termed the Islamic revolution to the world countries, headed by those in the Arab region. He emphasized that the basic formula of this call was represented in the exportation of chaos and terrorism, as happened in several Arab Gulf states like Bahrain and Kuwait; or in the creation of organizations and entities that carry out its orders under the guise of the Islamic religion, which is innocent of its deeds; or in the call for the annexation of others' lands as clearly indicated in this regime's conflict with Iraq — the strong shield of the Arab nation.

The vice president then reviewed the Iranian aggression on Iraq on 4 Septemebr 1980 and Iraq's stands and response to all the peace initiatives undertaken by the international organizations, the ICO, and the Nonaligned Movement on solving the conflict with Iran peacefully.

He added: The Iranian regime rejected all calls for peace and even exploited the Iraqi forces' withdrawal [from Iranian territory] to launch fresh attacks on our borders and shell our towns with heavy artillery, a matter which forced our valiant forces to respond to the aggression, crush the enemy attacks, and teach the enemy unforgettable lessons.

He stressed that due to the ecstasy of its victory, its elevated international position, and its good military reputation, Iraq did not plunge into self-delusion. He said Iraq was not distracted from assessing the extent of the conspiracy to which our Arab nation is being exposed, or from evaluating the seriousness of the dangers that are threatening that nation. This fact makes Iraq repeat more than ever the importance of unifying efforts and asserting the need to unify ranks and increase brotherly solidarity among Arab countries to confront the conspiracies, dangers, challenges, and the enemies' ambitions regardless of their shape and color.

Babakr Mahmud Rasul, Iraqi minister of labor and social affairs and chairman of the conference, then delivered a speech in which he stressed the need for reconsidering the organizational and coordinational formulas, which govern the work of the Arab Labor Organization, and for rendering these formulas more flexible to realize development and modernization in its economic and social aspects and to reach all the objectives and capabilities that the Arab labor charter and the organization's constitution emphasize. He also called on participants in the conference to work out appropriate formulas to develop the organization's structure and modernize its regulations so that its plans and activities can reach the level of a pan-Arab performance.

Al-Hashimi Banani, director general of the Arab Labor Organization and secretary general of the conference, also delivered a speech in which he greeted Iraq's steadfastness against the Iranian aggression, and said that this heroic steadfastness ws achieved by the wise Iraqi leadership, the Iraqi Army, and the unity of the Iraqi people in their determination to defend their honor and land. He also said that the whole world condemned the successive Iranian attacks on Iraq, pointing out that Iraq responded from a position of strength and capability to all good peaceful calls for stopping the Iraqi-Iranian war at a time when Iran insists on continuing and escalating that war.

He also reviewed the conference's agenda, which includes a number of topics pertaining to the strategy of developing the Arab labor force, the program of cooperation, dealing with the issue of Arab laborers who emigrated to Europe, and improving Arab- African cooperation toward realizing the organization's objectives.

The conference will resume its sessions tomorrow morning to discuss its agenda.

Kurdish Rebels Set Terms for Hostage Release

PM011553 Paris LE MONDE in French
29 Feb 84 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Kurdish Guerrillas Set Conditions for Release of Their French Hostages"]

[Text]Shortly before the arrival in Paris on Monday 27 February of Iraqi "number two" Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan, the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iraq [KDPI], which has been holding 3 Frenchmen hostage since 2 December, issued a new appeal to France to exert pressure on the Baghdad authorities to secure the release of 57 Kurds sentenced to death in Iraq.

In a communique, the KDPI, which is also demanding the return to Kurdistan of 8,000 Kurds deported to southern Iraq in August 1983, stresses that the 3 Frenchmen — Mr Jean-Christophe Lefas, Mr Robert Laurent, and Mr Yves Moy — will be released as soon as Baghdad has given a positive response to these two "humanitarian demands."

"In view of its close relations with the Iraqi regime, we think that France can play a positive role" and exert pressure on the Iraqi Government, the communique adds.

As is customary, the French authorities have kept very quiet about this affair from the start, stating that that is the precondition for its efficiency. Although it has not been officially confirmed, it seems probable that this question will be raised during Mr Ramadan's talks in Paris.

The three Frenchmen detained "somewhere in Kurdistan" are well treated, despite the "rather harsh living conditions," which are those of the region's population. In a letter to the French authorities dated 20 December, a photocopy of which accompanied the KDPT's new appeal, the three hostages complain of the cold, poor food, and lack of sanitation; they say they are suffering from the lack of news.

A representative of the KDPI — the main Kurdish resistance movement headed by (Idriss) and Mas'ud Barzani, sons of Mustafa Barzani, the former leader of the Kurdish rebellion in Iraq — had several meetings with External Relations Ministry officials in Paris in December and January to negotiate the three prisoners' release.

Amman Reports 17 May Agreement Canceled

JN051759 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Beirut — The Lebanese Cabinet has decided to abrogate the Lebanese-Israeli agreement signed on 17 May last year. The Lebanese Government spokesman said that the cabinet views the agreement as if it never existed and as if all of its effects are canceled. The Lebanese spokesman added that the Lebanese Government will inform Israel and the United States of this decision and will adopt the necessary measures to ensure sovereignty, security, and stability in southern Lebanon in order to achieve the withdrawal of the Israeli forces.

In another development, the government spokesman announced that, at the request of Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan decided to briefly withdraw his resignation. Al-Wazzan explained that he had withdrawn his resignation until a government of national unity is formed, which he expected to be very soon.

The Lebanese spokesman said that this decision has been made so that there will be no vacuum of authority while President al-Jumayyil is in Switzerland to participate in the second round of the Lebanese National Reconciliation Conference. Al-Wazzan tendered his resignation on 5 February in the wake of the battles that occurred in Beirut's southern district.

AFP quoted Lebanese and Swiss officials as saying that the National Reconciliation Conference will be resumed in Lausanne within the next few days.

Israel criticized the Lebanese Government's decision to abrogate the agreement. The Israeli prime minister's spokesman said that Israel will adopt moves to guarantee the so-called security of northern Israel. He described Lebanon as being currently unable to prevent onslaughts launched from southern Lebanon against Israel.

Commentary on Future Options

JN051938 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Mar 84

["Today's Talk"]

[Text] The Lebanese crisis has passed the most dangerous turning point, and the options that were presented have been accepted by both the regime and the opposition. Despite the obstruction of the French draft resolution at the Security Council by the Soviet Veto, efforts are still being exerted in that international quarter to station UN forces in the positions of the Multinational Force, most of which — except for the French contingent — has withdrawn from Lebanon. The French external relations minister said in Beirut that the Multinational Force has no presence in the Lebanese capital.

While waiting for the amendment of the French draft resolution — which UN Security Council sources say may be replaced by an Egyptian draft resolution — the Lebanese president held talks with Syria and some opposition leaders after receiving authorization from the Phalange Party and the Lebanese Forces for the stands he will adopt in order to save Lebanon from its current crisis.

According to reports from Beirut, Damascus, and other world capitals, the second round of the Geneva conference will be held within the next few days after preparations are made in such a way that will satisfy the disputing Lebanese parties. The second round of talks is expected to succeed in achieving an internal balance that will satisfy the disputing parties and save Lebanon from the whirlpool of fighting that has lasted for 9 years.

As we have said, inter-Lebanese understanding is the only path that will save the Lebanese from this bloody and deathly whirlpool which has inflicted heavy damages and losses on the Lebanese people. The expected agreement between the regime and the opposition on achieving a positive and real way out of the Lebanese crisis will lead to diminishing the effects of the foreign forces, whose interference — in accordance with the wish of internal parties — has escalated the Lebanese crisis.

We join all Arabs in hoping that a quick agreement can be achieved among the disputing parties in order to define the features of Lebanon's future, to end the bloodshed, and to regain Lebanon's Arab and brilliant face. We reiterate that Lebanon's salvation depends on the will of the Lebanese. When the Lebanese agree on their homeland's territorial integrity and their people's unity, the foreign forces will then leave the Lebanese territories. All Arabs must agree that Lebanon's territorial integrity must be one of our priorities. We also hope that Lebanon will regain its geographic and demographic unity under its legitimate sovereignty, with the support of all Lebanese.

6 Mar Press Comment

JN060911 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Another Lesson From Lebanon," *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* says: No one expected that Lebanon — government and people — while experiencing a tragic state of fragmentation and destruction, would deal another blow to the Israeli Government and the successors of Begin and Sharon by tearing up the 17 May agreement to add new defeats to Israel's past defeats in Beirut, Ash-Shuf, and 'Alayh and its current defeats in southern Lebanon. These new dfeats have put Israel, for the first time in the history of Arab-Israeli conflict, in a political and military impasse that Israel did not expect only 293 days after signing the agreement with Lebanon with the blessing of the United States. When it signed this agreement with the Lebanese Government, Israel believed it could forcibly impose its conditions and so-called peace on an Arab country, given that this has been Israel's strategy against the Arab states since its establishment.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B adds: The abrogation of the Israeli- Lebanese agreement, even if it was expected, is perhaps another lesson to Israel from fragmented Lebanon to redress its stands and strategies in the region and realize that brute force cannot

achieve real and durable peace and that the arrival of the tanks of Sharon and others in the center of Beirut or elsewhere cannot fulfill the Israeli dreams of creating submissive statelets to neighbor Israel. The Lebanese, who have fought fiercely and are still fighting against the Israeli enemy, must prove once again to the Israelis and their supporters that they are able to establish their independent and unified state without Israeli interference. This is the difficult test that the Lebanese people and government now face. Moreover, this is the other lesson that those who fought each other for more than 9 years must teach Israel and its supporters.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B concludes: The Arab peoples' attention is now drawn to their Lebanese brothers. They must prove to others that those who fight each other can bring about peace and restore unity to the Arab people in Lebanon. What is best for the Lebanese is best for all the Arabs in the same measure as their internecine fighting pained and wounded the Arabs.

On the same subject, *AD-DUSTUR* says: The significance of abrogating this agreement goes far beyond Lebanon and has regional and international dimensions. Moreover, the effects of this decision go far beyond the limited geographical range of the agreement to affect the entire Middle East. From now on, it could witness the beginning of a recession of the onslaught that the United States has led for a long time against the peoples of the Arab nation in a unilateral attempt by this international superpower to settle the conflict that has been raging in the region for many decades in a way that favors all Israel's interests and ignores the principles of justice and right and the feelings and interests of this great nation.

The abrogation of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement will help to refute many illusions that are about to become a reality due to the continuous Arab retreat and the spread of despair among the ranks of this nation. Moreover, the abrogation of the agreement has cut Israel down to its normal size as an isolated state in the region after it almost became a great colonialist empire due to unlimited U.S. support. The abrogation of the agreement also brought to an end a long era of unilateral U.S. efforts for dealing with the region's issues and the destinies of its peoples. Moreover, this abrogation paved the way for the possible abrogation of other similar agreements that have been the major cause of all this nation's weakness, fragmentation, and retreat.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: Although we believe that the abrogation of the agreement has given Lebanon the opportunity to completely dispose of the whirlpool of the dreadful crisis, we must not imagine that all the social, political, and sectarian Lebanese troubles have ended with the burial of that ill-omened agreement. The road to the Reconciliation Conference is still full of all sorts of dangers. Moreover, the Lebanese crisis file is big and full of complicated issues that can be settled only through adhering to political wisdom and putting Lebanon's interests above all other small sectarian interests.

Under the headline "The Right Beginning," *AR-RA'Y* says: From the beginning, it was clear that the Israeli-Lebanese agreement was the outcome of the Zionist invasion on the one hand and the denounced alliance among the sectarian and isolationist forces and the Zionist enemy on the other. Without this agreement, it would not be possible for this alliance to normalize Israeli-Lebanese relations and destroy all the forces that believe in Lebanon's affiliation and its role in the battles of its nation against occupation, hegemony, and capitulation to the Zionist designs. The abrogation of the agreement would not have taken place without the valiant resistance of the Lebanese forces that are concerned about their pan-Arab and national identity. Moreover, it would not have taken place had the isolationists, the Multinational Force, and the destructive operations of the guns and warships succeeded in destroying the Lebanese resistance that is full of pan-Arab affiliation and concern about not involving Lebanon in the Zionist plan that seeks to impose hegemony over the entire region.

AR-RA'Y concludes: We hope the Lebanese Government's step will be the right beginning of a sincere Lebanese national dialogue that will achieve stability and security and restore to the fraternal Lebanese people the factors of balance, mutual confidence, and the real concern of all the disputing parties. The salvation of Lebanon cannot be achieved through Zionist invasion, the suspect U.S. role, or false claims about security, peace, and stability, but through Lebanese hands and their entrenched belief that Lebanon can accomodate all sects and forces, as it has always done, and, through the sincerity of all these sects and forces, rise again as it always has arisen.

PLO-Jordanian Committee Ends Meetings 5 Mar

JN051609 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Amman, 5 Mar (PETRA) — Dr Fu'ad Bsaysu, secretary general of the Jordanian-Palestinian committee for supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied territory, has stated that the committee ended its meetings this afternoon at the headquarters of the committee's secretariat general. He said the committee adopted many resolutions on the pressing needs of economic and social officials in the occupied homeland.

Dr Bsaysu said that the committee spelled out the general framework of the budget for the fund to bolster steadfastness during this year in light of needs that reflect the firm and pressing commitments of our people in the occupied territories. He added that the committee adopted measures related to searching for financial sources for the fund's proposed budget and established guidelines that will increase the fund's activities for bolstering steadfastness.

Dr Bsaysu noted that the committee hopes that an Arab and Islamic stand will be adopted which will be in harmony with the requirements of the current stage through which the fund for bolstering steadfastness is passing. He added that the committee remains in session in order to confront the requirements of the current stage.

Sulayman 'Arar, deputy prime minister and interior minister, led the Jordanian side. This side was comprised of Jawad al-'Anani, minister of industry, trade, and tourism; and Shawkat Mahmud, minister of occupied territories.

Hamid Abu Sittah, head of the PLO's Department of Occupied Homeland Affairs, led the Palestinian side. This side was comprised of Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces; and Dr Hanna Nasir, PLO Executive Committee member.

AD-DUSTUR on PLO-Jordanian Joint Statement

JN052250 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Mar 84 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "The First Step in the Joint Move"]

[Text] The joint statement issued yesterday following the conclusion of the Jordanian and Palestinian talks that were held during 'Arafat's recent visit to Jordan is characterized by rationalism, objectivity, and clarity. Within this framework, this statement can be considered a surprise for those who were expecting this round of talks to result in a Jordanian-Palestinian jump toward the unknown or a quick diplomatic move in the international arena, which still lacks the appropriate circumstances for a move toward peace. Furthermore, the joint statement disappointed those who were betting on the Jordanian-Palestinian meeting's failure to reach a ground of mutual understanding.

In light of the current Arab and international realities, and out of the two sides' realization of the difficulty of a quick political move under the present Arab fragmentation, Israeli arrogance, and U.S. preoccupation with the presidential campaign, the two sides preferred initially to probe the opportunities for a joint move, to exchange views, and to carefully study the whole subject. For this reason, the two sides turned this meeting into a beginning for a continuing dialogue that aims eventually at formulating a joint stand that considers the general situation, the opportunities, and the possibilities.

Although the joint statement excluded the dramatic announcement that certain parties expected, it nevertheless confirmed a number of important facts. The foremost of these is the special and characteristic relationship that links the two brother Jordanian and Palestinian peoples — as has been the case in the past, is now, and will be in the future. Furthermore, the statement stressed the need to continue the dialogue between the two sides in order to formulate a unified political stand and regulate the relationship between them on a sound and balanced basis as a prelude for a unified move in the future.

The statement also affirmed independent Palestinian decision-making and the need to support the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Thus, the statement replies to those who considered the coordination between Jordan and the PLO as an encroachment on the PLO's representation of the Palestinians. Furthermore, the statement stressed the importance of having the joint move in the future fall within the Fes summit resolutions, which are essentially based on UN Resolution 242.

In completion of this aspect, the statement gave special significance to Jordanian-Palestinian international moves, particularly in the European arena, in order to activate the European role and encourage it to find a just solution to the Palestinian question.

Among the most prominent aspects of the statement is the special concern the two sides expressed for their kinfolk in the occupied territory and toward the initimidation, eviction, settlement schemes, and expropriation of land and freedom to which they are being subjugated. Such suffering by the kinfolk necessitates continued action to support their steadfastness, alleviate their tribulation, and enable them to face the burden of occupation. Perhaps the joint statement's reference to alleviating the stress of the kinfolk who are groaning under the yoke of occupation as a principal objective and top priority for both Jordan and the PLO may indicate the nature of the talks that the two sides will shortly resume.

Iraqi Ambassador Addresses Rally 5 March

JN051640 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Amman, 5 Mar (PETRA) — Iraq's Ambassador in Amman Ibrahim Shuja' Sultan has praised Jordan — king, government, and people — for supporting Iraq from the first day of the war that Iraq is waging on the eastern flank of the Arab homeland. This came during the ambassador's address at the popular rally the Iraqi community in Jordan organized near the Iraqi Embassy in support of the victories that the Iraqi Army achieved during recent battles against the Iranian aggressors. He also said: Iraq waged heroic battles against a reckless enemy who knows neither law nor human relations. He pointed out that Iran's only objective is to occupy Iraq and the Arab Gulf states in order to expand the Persian empire, which hates the Arabs and Muslims.

The ambassador added that the Iranian enemy was warned that, this time, Iraq would not only repel aggression but would also take all the necessary measures to awaken Iran's rulers from their dream by dealing fatal blows deep inside Iran. The ambassador also called on the Arab countries to fulfill the commitments they made at the Fes summit in 1982 and to confirm their support for Iraq against the Iranian aggression. He called on the United Nations and the international community to take effective steps to end the Iranian rulers' aggressive policy that threatens the security of the region and its peoples.

The Iraqi citizens sent a cable to President Saddam Husayn praising the heroic deeds and the victories that Iraq achieved in its recent battles.

Cabinet Decision on Abrogation of 17 May Accord
NC051339 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1257 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Cabinet statement issued after 5 March meeting in the Presidential Palace — read by Cabinet Secretary Shafiq Munayinah — recorded]

[Text] At the request of His Excellency President Amin al-Jumayyil, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and the ministers met at the Presidential Palace on Monday morning, 5 March 1984. A review was made of the current security and political conditions. The review also included the discussions which took place between His Excellency President al-Jumayyil and His Excellency President al-Asad. These discussions showed agreement on several points and bases which constitute an approach to solving the crisis through which the country is fumbling.

His excellency the president explained that a number of fateful and constitutional issues require the presence of a government with full powers to confront the required responsibilities. For this reason, he asked the prime minister to retract the resignation of his government, particularly since a decree has not yet been issued accepting this resignation. The president handed the prime minister a letter to this effect.

As a result of deliberations and in view of the exceptional and fateful circumstances through which the country is passing, requiring the adoption of basic decisions and stands;

Since His Excellency President Amin al-Jumayyil will be compelled to be out of the country for reasons connected with the sublime and fateful interests of the homeland within the context of resuming the National Dialogue Conference;

And in observance of the provisions of Article 62 of the Lebanese Constitution, the prime minister responded to the request by his excellency the president to retract the resignation of his government for a short period. He affirmed to his excellency the president his desire that his excellency succeed soon in forming a new government of national unity. The prime minister handed his excellency the president a letter to this effect.

At this point the cabinet was summoned to convene in session. A comprehensive discussion was held regarding affairs connected with the current situation in the country and the dangers surrounding it on all levels. The cabinet also discussed the results of the discussions which his excellency the president and the foreign and expatriates minister held in Damascus.

Lebanon's objective behind these talks was to restore the unity of ranks, to resume the salvation march, to restore full sovereignty on its territory, and to achieve the cherished reforms in addition to reconsideration of the 17 May 1983 agreement, which Lebanon adopted as one of the means ensuring Israeli withdrawal from our territory, following the conclusion of the process of the withdrawal from Beirut. Lebanon has refrained from ratifying this agreement. Consequently, it remained a plan and did not become a ratified agreement.

The prime minister explained that Lebanon has not ratified this agreement and therefore considers it null and void. During all the discussions which took place by the cabinet in the past several months, this stand emerged, particularly that Israel has acted in a way violating its pledges to withdraw. In September 1983 the prime minister communicated this stand to the Arab League secretary general, asserting that the agreement is null and void.

The foreign and expatriates minister explained that the letter addressed by Lebanon to the U.S. side participating in the agreement in answer to the Israeli side's letter stipulating the Syrian and Palestinian withdrawal stresses Lebanon's right to suspend or cancel the agreement while reserving its right to continue to secure the withdrawal by various methods it finds appropriate.

Whereas all developments in the Lebanese arena impose the abandonment of this means, which was adopted to achieve this goal, and consequently the abrogation of this agreement and the pursuit of withdrawals by all other useful methods until the liberation of all the Lebanese territory:

The cabinet, after taking cognizance of the texts of Articles 56 and 57 of the Lebanese Constitution, which obligate the president of the republic to publish the law submitted by the Chamber of Deputies within a specific period or to return it;

And since the president of the republic has promulgated the law that was endorsed by the Chamber of Deputies on 14 June 1983 related to the Chamber's endorsement of the ratification of the agreement signed between the representatives of the Lebanese Government and Israel with the participation of the United States in its capacity as a witness to the agreement, and because the president of the republic has not returned the law to the Chamber of Deputies within the specified period, the Cabinet, in its session convened on 5 March 1984 under the chairmanship of the president of the republic, decided the following:

1. To cancel the cabinet decision dated 14 May 1983 providing for the approval of the referent agreement — signed on 17 May 1983 — between the representatives of the Lebanese Government and Israel with the participation of the United States in its capacity as witness. The cabinet also decided to cancel this unratified agreement and to consider it invalid [batilan], as if it never existed, and to cancel all the effects that could have resulted from it.

2. To convey this decision to the parties signatory to the agreement.

3. The Lebanese Government will take the necessary steps that will lead to the government's laying down security measures and arrangements that would ensure sovereignty, security, and stability in southern lebanon; that would prevent infiltration through the southern borders; and that would achieve the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all Lebanese territory.

Thank you.

In another development, I have learned from a government source that Lebanon is holding urgent contacts to convene the second Geneva conference on next Wednesday or Thursday, if possible. Otherwise, and in principle, the date for the second Geneva conference is next Monday.

Al-Wazzan Agrees To Withdraw Resignation

NC051228 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1223 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] A statement by the cabinet regarding Lebanon's stance on the 17 May agreement is expected soon.

It has been learned that during the cabinet meeting President Amin al-Jumayyil asked Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan to withdraw his resignation, because it is impermissible to leave the country without a government during the president's absence. The president will leave for Switzerland to attend the second round of the National Dialogue Conference. Prime Minsiter al-Wazzan agreed.

It has been learned that the National Dialogue Conference will meet in Switzerland in the next 2 days.

Al-Wazzan Statement

NC051409 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan declared after the cabinet's extraordinary session today that fateful decisions were made today and that there must be a special situation and a constitutional atmosphere when the president is absent to attend the National Dialogue Conference. The prime minister said that he agreed to withdraw his resignation for a very brief period during this fateful phase preliminary to the formation of a national unity government very soon.

[Begin recording] [Al-Wazzan] Those following up events are well aware of what took place today. The cabinet's secretary general will read out to you the cabinet's decisions. I have nothing more to add to these decisions.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Prime Minister, it has been reiterated since yesterday that you would retract your resignation. What does the decision to retract your resignation mean?

[Al-Wazzan] In fact, I have absolutely no desire to retract my resignation, which I repeated several times. Each time circumstances compelled us to assume further responsibility. Today there are fateful decisions and a special situation during the president's absence from the country. The president handed me a letter in which he noted this matter. As a result of the situation, he put me in the constitutional framework which provides for the formation of a government and to assume its full responsibility. The letter consequently requested me to withdraw my resignation. Naturally, I am a citizen of this fate-stricken country which wants to emerge from the rubble and which wants to see its salvation. I do not desire to retreat from any useful step today to confront this situation. I agreed to withdraw my resignation for a very brief period so that some important and fateful questions can be solved. I hope, as I said, that this will be for a very brief period. Moreover, I hope that this [cabinet] session is the only one required in these extraordinary circumstances. I also hope that the president will be able to form a government of national unity very soon. [end recording]

Reaction to Abrogation of 17 May Agreement

Al-Asad Congratulates Al-Jumayyil

NC051721 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1718 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has phoned President al-Jumayyil, stressing that the abrogation of the 17 May accord which the United States and Israel tried to impose on Lebanon constitutes a victory for the Lebanese and Syrian peoples and for the Arab nation. He stressed that Syria will continue to support Lebanon in its struggle for the sake of its sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. President al-Asad also affirmed the strong ties of brotherhood that link the Lebanese and Syrian peoples.

Phalange Party Support

NC051424 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Pierre al-Jumayyil chaired a joint meeting of the Lebanese Phalange Party Political Bureau and Central Council in the presence of all members at noon today. The discussions dealt with security and political developments and current moves.

The conferees reaffirmed their absolute confidence in President Amin al-Jumayyil and expressed their support for him in all his efforts to find radical solutions to the Lebanese crisis.

Franjiyah ASH-SHARQ Interview

NC061027 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0730 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Interview with former President Sulayman Franjiyah by Lebanese newspaper *ASH-SHARQ* on 5 March — read by announcer]

[Excerpt] Question: Your Excellency, you told the Lebanese people that positive and important steps will be taken after the [17 May] agreement is abrogated. What are these steps?

Franjiyah: After I met with his excellency the president, His Excellency [former] Prime Minister Karami, and after hearing from his excellency the president the program he has charted for the future policy in Lebanon, I came back to Zgharta. The first

thing I did was to tell my Lebanese brothers of the good news and of the end of the crisis. After a 3-hour discussion with his excellency the president of all aspects of the Lebanese situation, Karami and I felt that the plan the president has charted for Lebanon's future policy is one desired by every sincere Lebanese who distinguishes between national and personal interests. For this reason, we have great hopes that what we heard from his excellency the president will begin to be achieved as of today, God willing.

Question: Do you expect President al-Jumayyil to make a decision abrogating the agreement?

Franjiyah: Ninety-nine point nine percent yes.

Question: What are the other steps that the president of the republic will take?

Franjiyah: The steps are now confined to abrogating the agreement. When we say abrogation of the agreement, we mean abolishing every reason that divided the Lebanese into two parties. Important steps will remain, but they will not be a reason for differences among the Lebanese. There will be a group that will not be satisfied with the future steps, but after the abrogation the vast majority will feel that the situation they desire for Lebanon will materialize very shortly.

Question: Your Excellency, does this mean that these steps will be submitted at the second conference in Geneva after the abrogation of the agreement?

Franjiyah: Of course, at the second conference, whether it convenes in Geneva or anywhere else, everyone in the dialogue committee will submit a working paper and the whole committee will discuss this paper. What will be discussed in earnest are basic points to enable Lebanese citizens to lead a safe and comfortable life. As for secondary issues, they will be left to forthcoming cabinets and the future.

Question: May we gather from your recent statements that you will use all your resources to help save Lebanon?

Franjiyah: As usual in my political life, I will use all my resources to serve what I believe in.

Question: How do you imagine political understanding between Lebanon and Syria?

Franjiyah: If we go back to old and modern history, we find that when Syrian-Lebanese relations were in agreement, everything went well. When we differ, both peoples pay the price.

Question: In light of what you say, do you believe that the abrogation of the agreement will make Lebanon face another problem that may be as serious as the agreement, such as a possible Israeli move to devour southern Lebanon and subvert Lebanese-Syrian harmony?

Franjiyah: Israel harbors only evil for Lebanon and will do all it can so that the current situation in Lebanon will continue. All Israel can do is bombard Lebanon with aircraft or artillery. But the danger will come from Israeli agents in Lebanon. If these agents are not supported by the Lebanese Army and government, the Lebanese can liquidate them in less than a week.

Question: Thus, you are not afraid of southern Lebanon being devoured and of Lebanese-Syrian harmony being suberted?

Franjiyah: Israel can stay in the south. In Sidon yesterday, Israel lost 15 soldiers. In Israel's view, these 15 soldiers are more important than the south and their stay there. However, as long as there are official Lebanese-Israeli relations, Israel will stay in the south in order to make gains. When the agreement is abrogated and all ties between Lebanon and Israel are severed, Israel will withdraw the next day and for good.

Question: Would you call on the Lebanese national resistance to increase their fighting and operations against the enemy?

Franjiyah: This is the only chance we have to make Israel withdraw immediately after relations with it are severed. Glory to this resistance. Lebanon should be satisfied that this resistance emerged under these circumstances and feel proud before the world that it was not and will not be conquered.

Lebanese Forces Spokesman

NC051727 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1650 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] The official spokesman of the Lebanese Forces Command has made the following statement:

The Lebanese Forces Command Council held its weekly meeting at its headquarters under Fadi Afram. This meeting comes within the framework of discussing the latest developments. The conferees discussed the practical and organizational steps which the Command Council decided to take in order to strengthen the Christian areas from the social, economic, and security aspects.

The Council discussed the statement issued by the Lebanese cabinet and will adopt a more detailed stance later. For the time being, the Command Council reiterates the following stand:

1. Rejecting the submissive decision imposed by the Syrian assaut against the free Lebanese people — the assault which forced the government to abrogate the 17 May agreement.

2. Resisting all Syrian policies imposed on the Lebanese Government. Such resistance is a sacred duty and is stipulated by loyalty to the martyrs and to the principles for which Bashir al-Jumayyil was martyred along with 6,000 people.

3. Demanding that all Christian leaderships and popular groups cling to the resistance and adopt a unified Christian stand — a stand which secures liberty, security, and dignity for the Christians and rejects the policy of the carrot and the stick which Syria is adopting toward our people. Syria is trying to distort the image of our struggling and steadfast people in order to depict it as a people who accept any solution, regardless of how costly this solution can be in terms of liberty and dignity.

Amal Political Bureau Meeting

NC051732 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1645 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] The Amal Movement Political Bureau held a meeting under the chairmanship of Nabih Birri at 1530 today. The conferees were briefed on the consultations and contacts held in Damascus in the past few days.

Birri returned to Beirut from Damascus at dawn today. He held intensive discussions there with senior Syrian officials on the results of the Lebanese-Syrian summit and ways of ending the current situation in Lebanon.

Muslim Leaders Discuss Abrogation

NC052047 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] A meeting was held tonight at the residence of [former] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss. It was attended by [former] Prime Ministers Taqiy ad-Din as-Sulh and Rashid as-Sulh, as well as Dr Nasib al-Barbir and Malik Salam. The conferees reviewed the developments in Lebanon.

After the meeting, Al-Huss said: This meeting was part of the meetings held continuously to discuss developments in light of the fast-breaking events in the area. The most important event was the cabinet's announcement today abrogating the 17 May agreement. It was natural to focus on this stand and its subsequent results in the foreseeable future.

Al-Huss added: The second round of the Dialogue Conference is expected to be held at the beginning of next week. Therefore, it was natural for the conferees to discuss this conference and its various possible results in the near and distant future.

Karami, Pierre al-Jumayyil Reaction

NC051956 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1905 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] [Former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami said the official announcement of the abrogation of the 17 May agreement is a step along the path to an accord and to an agreement on a reform program and a national unity government. He urged everyone to shoulder their responsibilities to build a new Lebanon. Karami added: This great historic action constitutes a starting point which undoubtedly will have repercussions on the entire Arab region, if not the entire world.

The Northern Coordination Committee welcomed the agreement's abrogation. After a meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Karami, the committee considered the abrogation as a national necessity and an approach to a national accord.

Pierre al-Jumayyil said the abrogation of the 17 May agreement was foreseeable and one step among future ones. Commenting on the cabinet's decision tonight, Al-Jumayyil said: The abrogation was foreseeable. This is a step among future ones which should be reached with the United States, France, Israel, and all states concerned with what is happening in Lebanon so as to guarantee an end to the war, which has lasted a long time. This long period has proved that our reliance on others to end our crisis will produce no results, particularly since everybody knows the result of the U.S. option.

Pierre al-Jumayyil further said: We must rely on ourselves. Perhaps this time we will find the suitable way to reach a solution now that the Multinational Force has turned its back on us.

Answering a question, Pierre al-Jumayyil pointed out that it is necessary to open lines of communications with all, including Israel itself, because the agreement was concluded between Lebanon and Israel in order to end all foreign occupation.

Regarding Syrian guarantees, Pierre al-Jumayyil said: It is time the Lebanese place their homeland's sublime interests uppermost in their mind and above all other interests. We must therefore rely on ourselves first and last.

In conclusion, Pierre al-Jumayyil said: Washington, which undertook to tackle the question of the foreign withdrawals, has not succeeded in its mission. Syria refused to withdraw, prompting Israel to follow suit. Under the circumstances, the 17 May agreement has been annulled in practice, because it never had been implemented. Its annulment was therefore foreseeable.

The Lebanese Forces Council said in a statement tonight that it opposes the decision abrogating the agreement. It is expected to define its stand in more detail later.

Fattal: Agreement 'Still Valid'

NC051822 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1655 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Ambassador Antoine Fattal, head of the delegation which represented Lebanon in the negotiations for and signing of the 17 May agreement, tonight explained to Radio Free Lebanon that the abrogation of the Lebanese-Israeli accord will entail political and military repercussions of an unpredictable extent. This is because such an abrogation takes us back to the previous state of war with Israel — a state to which nobody is committed under the UN Charter. Dr Fattal added that we are going back to what is called a state of war because the truce agreement between Lebanon and Israel was violated by Israel in 1967 and has not been implemented since. This is why, Dr Fattal said, I regard those who speak about the feasibility of resurrecting the truce agreement as being out of touch with reality world.

Dr Fattal told the radio that the 17 May agreement does not give any of the signatories the right to abrogate it, although such a right was mentioned in the attached letters between the parties concerned. In one of the clauses, Israel stipulates a Syrian withdrawal in return for its withdrawal from Lebanon, while Lebanon kept the right to suspend the agreement or to consider it annulled if Israel does not pull out of Lebanon.

In any case, Dr Fattal said, this agreement is still valid from the legal point of view.

National Liberal Party Opposed

NC061136 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] The National Liberal Party has maintained its position rejecting the abrogation of the May accord. The party expressed fears that this could be a factor in making other nations lose confidence in Lebanon concerning future agreements. The party issued a statement to this effect, saying that the abrogation of the accord has not changed anything.

VOH Reports Cancellation

JN051632 Marj Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in English 1600 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Reports from Beirut say the Lebanese cabinet has decided to cancel Lebanon's May 17 agreement with Israel. Israeli officials say Israel and Lebanon have been in contact about their relations, after the U.S.-promoted troop withdrawal pact is abrogated and Israel reportedly does not rule out the possibility of negotiating a new agreement for the security of Israel's northern border. Lebanese radio stations say that, in the wake of the cancellation of the agreement, a new Reconciliation Conference is expected to be convened in ... [radio goes off the air for 1 minute; remainder of item unheard]

PSP Radio on Cabinet Decision

NC051249 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1237 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] At its extraordinary meeting today under the chairmanship of Amin al-Jumayyil, the Cabinet decided to abrogate the 17 May agreement. It also decided to resume the National Dialogue Conference in Geneva next week. In addition, the cabinet decided to investigate the latest events and their causes. This was contained in the resolutions issued at the end of the sole meeting held by the Al-Wazzan cabinet after they had been tabled [ta'wimiha].

So far, it is not clear if the decision to open the investigation includes the massacres and shelling against nationalist areas. Also, the date of the Geneva conference has not yet been set. There is believed that there is no room for maneuvering to deflect from national unanimity in this respect. This is particularly so despite the pressure being exerted by the sides that are harmed by an Arab solution to the Lebanese crisis. It is not in the interest of these sides that Lebanon make its way toward a political solution.

In this respect, an informed source told the Voice of the Mountain that attempts are being made on various levels to sabotage the attempts for a solution.

Official Source on Al-Jumayyil Address to Nation

NC052035 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] An official source has stated the following:

Some papers and radios speak now and then about steps which the president intends to take. An example is what was reiterated today to the effect that the president will address a message to the Lebanese. The steps to be taken by the president are defined in statements which the presidency's directorate general issues at the appropriate time.

Al-Jumayyil, U.S. Envoy Discuss Developments

NC052011 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil tonight received U.S. Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew. They reviewed current conditions in light of recent developments.

VOAL: Dialogue To Be Held in Lausanne 12 March

NC060654 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Available reports say that it is certain now that the second round of the National Dialogue Conference will be held in Lausanne, Switzerland, on Monday, 12 March. A well informed Lebanese source has confirmed that the Dialogue Conference will be held in Lausanne and said that in light of consultations held between Lebanon and the Swiss authorities, it was decided to convene the conference at the Beau Rivage Hotel in Lausanne. Two hundred rooms were reserved at the hotel.

Invitations are expected to be addressed in the next 2 days to the national dialogue conferees to come to Switzerland. It is recalled that there will be no changes in representation or widening of the base of representation to include communities which had not been invited to take part in the dialogue.

Opposition Rejects National Government Now

NC031900 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Sources from the National Salvation Front and Amal Movement have stressed that political and administrative reforms must be put into effect before contemplating the formation of a government of national unity, so that the regime may not resort to the method of maneuvers in Geneva and so that the whirlpool of conflicts may not reemerge.

These sources say that Syrian officials told Amin al-Jumayyil that any agreement on the reforms and Geneva conference must be reached between the Lebanese authority and opposition. The same sources point out that Amin al-Jumayyil demanded political guarantees from the opposition, but that President Hafiz al-Asad rejected this demand.

Cheysson, Sham'un, Al-Jumayyil Meet 5 Mar

NC051242 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Acting the way the U.S. emissaries do, Claude Cheysson,

French external relations minister, at 1230 met with President al-Jumayyil in the B'abda Palace. The meeting ended at 1315 and was followed by a meeting among Cheysson, Al-Wazzan, and Salim in the B'abda Palace rooms.

Cheysson today continued with his meetings with Lebanese leaders. He met with [former] President Camille Sham'un and Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil in the residence of French Ambassador Fernand Wibaux.

After all President Sham'un's rejectionist statements over the past days, following his meeting with Cheysson today, he expressed hope that the military role is about to end. He said: The Geneva conference and formation of the new cabinet may open the door to diplomatic negotiations between us and the Syrians so that we can iron out all problems, first of all the Syrian military presence in Lebanon. This is what creates for us the need for a catalystic diplomatic stance on Europe's part — and the French Government's preparedness to play this role.

Cheysson had earlier received a delegation of the Greek Catholic community. We note that a short while ago Minister Cheysson deparated B'abda Palace and emphasized France's backing for President al-Jumayyil as well as the need for all the Lebanese to rally around the president.

Cheysson said that no final French decision has been made concerning the French contingent in Lebanon. Cheysson considers that this matter will be decided following the completion of the consultaions with the Lebanese authorities. He said: Lebanon is a country which must stay — and is staying — despite all the shelling.

Cheysson Pledges Support Before Departure

NC051754 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1640 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Claude Cheysson, French minister of external relations, left Beirut at 1400 today aboard a French Air Force plane.

Before leaving the Presidential Palace, Cheysson said: I wanted first to reaffirm France's declared and reiterated support for Lebanon during this critical stage. We reaffirm this support at a time when Lebanon is exerting new efforts to express itself in a united manner. I understood that we are at the start of this development, and France applauds this. We believe France has only friends in Lebanon.

Minister Cheysson added: We know we have a number of friends in the world. It is very important to know what stands the Lebanese president and government will adopt so that we can coordinate our stands. If for some reason our opinion does not fully conform with the Lebanese opinion, we will take Lebanon's opinion into consideration. However, our stands on the main problems in the region will conform with the Lebanese stand because the united Lebanese state must succeed.

Lebanon experienced all kinds of ordeals in the past few years. Few states in the world had such a harsh experience. Despite this, this nation is still here. When the fighting stops, the Lebanese will return to his destroyed house to show his vitality and prove to the world that he belongs to this place.

The French minister was told: You have a commitment, particularly in the Multinational Force, which, as you said yesterday, no longer exists. He answered: I made a review of events. We are militarily present in Lebanon in three forms:

1. We provide technical support for the Lebanese Army. There is no problem here. It is French technical support for the Lebanese Government and it will remain French.

2. We participate in an international force — UNIFIL. Our contingent in this force is the most important one.

3. We participated in the Multinational Force. It is not I who says that this force has disappeared; this force disappeared when (?the parties to it) withdrew. There must be at least two parties in the force for it to be called a multinational force.

Al-Jumayyil, Patriarch, Papal Ambassador Meet

NC040904 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] We have just received a report saying President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has visited the Patriarchal See at Bkirki where he attended holy mass. Information adds that immediately afterward, President al-Jumayyil held a closed meeting with the Maronite Patriarch, Cardinal Khuraysh, with whom the president discussed the developments in light of the president's visit to the Syrian capital, and in light of the summit meeting between the president and President Hafiz al-Asad.

While the meeting was still in progress, the Papal ambassador arrived at Bkirki and joined the president and patriarch.

CP Delegation Visits Franjiyah, Karami

NC060757 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0730 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] A Lebanese Communist Party delegation has visited former President Sulayman Franjiyah and former Prime Minister Rashid Karami to discuss current developments in light of the cancellation of the 17 May agreement. The delegation included George Batal, member of the Politbureau, and Mahmud al-Wawi, the party's responsible official in the north. After his meeting with Karami, Batal said that the nationalist forces will succeed in obtaining other reforms, in addition to the cancellation of the 17 May agreement, for the interest of Lebanon, all Lebanese Muslims, and others.

Islamic Jihad Claims Anti-French Attacks

JN061020 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Organization [munazzamat al-jihad al-islami] has claimed responsibility for the three recent operations aimed against French soldiers in Lebanon. The first killed

one soldier in southern Beirut yesterday, and the second and the third were carried out Thursday and Sunday against the French Embassy in Beirut. A statement by the organization published by the Lebanese press today said that a bomb was hurled at the embassy last Sunday while Claude Cheysson, French external relations minister, was inside. Last Thursday, according to the statement, which demanded an immediate withdrawal of the French unit from Lebanon, a missile was fired at a building housing the French Embassy guards.

Amal, PSP Reaffirm Commitment to Cease-Fire
NC052033 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] A meeting was held in the house of Nabih Birri this evening attended by former Ministers Marwan Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt; Muhsin Dallul, deputy leader of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP]; commanders of the patriotic army in Beirut; and senior military officials of the Amal Movement and the PSP. A number of decisions were made in this meeting, the most important of which were: first, the decision to abide by the cease-fire and to emphasize the need for the other side to abide by it; and second, the decision to stress the need to consolidate security in nationalist [West] Beirut and to meticulously apply the measures agreed upon to remove any armed presence.

PSP Radio Links Clashes to Cabinet Meeting
NC051321 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Why this sudden military escalation of the situation and has this escalation anything to do with the cabinet meeting today in which it decided to abrogate the 17 May agreement and to convene the National Dialogue Conference in Geneva? Are there certain parties who do not want this country to find its way to stability, but insist on striking at, or torpedoing, any attempt at harmony between the political and popular ambition and at stopping the policy that caused disasters and tragedies to the Lebanese people in the past months?

These vehement questions were raised today by observers who have noticed the factional army and the so-called Lebanese Forces attempting — when the cabinet meeting began up to the time of this newscast — to torpedo the sitaution on all axes, particularly the Sodeco and the Markets axes, as well as the mountain positions and villages. The Progressive Socialist Party Forces and the Amal Movement exercised self-restraint despite this major escalation of the situation, in keeping with the announcement by the National Salvation Front and the Amal following the intensive meetings in Damascus yesterday.

At 1300 violent clashes occurred on the Sodeco axis afater the factional army and the Phalangist gangs torpedoed the situation on this line using rockets and heavy machine guns. This came after the national forces repulsed an abortive infiltration attempt by the factional army and gangs. In the meantime, there were reports on the presence of a large number of armed men in Beirut's eastern quarters. It was reported that clashes occurred among the Phalangist militiamen there.

VOL: Palestinian Patrols Deployed in West Beirut
NC021744 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] We have learned that Palestinian dissidents have been deploying patrols in West Beirut during the night, particularly in the areas near the Palestinian camps, under the guise of military police. Several dissidents have been entering the Ra's an-Nab' area in uniforms identified with the Al-Murabitun movement.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian General Command has been supplying ammunition and explosives to the Hezbollah party in the south for use in operations against the Israeli army.

RFL: Muslim Leaders 'Summoned' To Damascus
NC060957 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus yesterday summoned Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, and Mufti Hasan Khalid for talks with Syrian officials before the end of this week. The talks will touch on the Lebanese situation following the abrogation of the 17 May accord.

Birri Denies Reports on Disagreement With Syria
JN060924 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] In Lebanon Nabih Birri, leader of the Lebanese Amal Movement, said that the views of the Lebanese national opposition and the leadership in fraternal Syria are absolutely identical. He said that there will not be any different Syrian stand

In a statement in Beirut yesterday, Birri ridiculed reports about a disagreement and said: Our relations with fraternal Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad are relations of struggle and destiny. Let all the media of insinuation, discord, and agentry be silent.

Lahhud Reports on Reasons for Army Split
NC051253 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1142 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Colonel Fu'ad Lahhud, chairman of the Parliamentary Defense Committee, considers that the formation of a government inadequate to tackle the situation that led to the split in the Army establishment.

In a report submitted to the parliamentary investigating committee, Lahhud says that the appointment of an Army commander unqualified for this post, the 17 May agreement, and the assault on Beirut and its suburb in an unreasonable and unacceptable way are among the things that paralyzed the Army. The political and military leaderships are responsible for the mistakes that have been made. Lahhud suggests that the investigation focus on these subjects so that responsibilities and those responsible for what took place can be determined.

Israelis Detain Cargo Ship in Sidon

NC042021 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] The correspondent of the NATIONAL INFORMATION AGENCY in the south reports that Israeli forces in Sidon at 0900 today arrested the captain and crew of the cargo ship *Fu'ad*, which was anchored in the port, and took them away for interrogation. The correspondent added that the ship carries foodstuffs.

Sidon Port Closed

NC061037 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text]Sidon port operations continue to be paralyzed for the third successive day by order of the Israeli occupation forces following the Lebanese national resistance men's operation last Sunday.

This morning Israeli forces opened intensive fire indiscriminately in order to terrorize the citizens. Contacts are under way with the appropriate authorities to allow a cargo ship to unload 285 tons of needed flour.

Edmond Mash'alani, acting governor of southern Lebanon, has also held contacts so a ship may unload foodstuffs for evacuees in Sidon. The ship's cargo also includes 1,000 mattresses, 50 tons of rice, 10 tons of lentils, and 500 boxes of cans of milk sent by Rafiq al-Hariri to the Islamic Institution for Culture and Higher Education.

Israeli enemy forces closed the Sayniq Bridge this morning for 1 and 1/2 hours while they searched the orchards close to Ma'ruf Sa'd highway.

Military Alertness For Possible Israeli Action

JN061020 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0510 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] Damascus is extremely satisfied with the abrogation of the 17 May agreement. There is a spirit of victory coupled with alertness. Syria now faces a great responsibility, namely, protecting the phase of salvation in Lebanon. This alertness became apparent in the Syrian capital after President Amin al-Jumayyil left last Thursday. Damascus radio commentators warned that the U.S. politicians are bad losers and that they require a long time to make good their losses. The U.S. ships may resume their shelling and Israel may increase its aggressions so as to hamper the march of reconciliation, detente, and justice in Lebanon. Hence, observors noted that the abrogation of the agreement has coincided with a Syrian military alertness to face any eventuality. Syria continues to watch the Israeli-Syrian contact lines in Lebanon. One Lebanese journalist today accurately described the Syrian caution saying that it curbed the rising spirit of victory.

Large-Scale Operation Feared

JN061035 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Observers have pointed out that the abrogation of the agreement proves that it is impossible to achieve a unilateral agreement between the Zionist enemy and any Arab state in accordance with Israeli-U.S. conditions. Observers warned of the possibility that the Zionist enemy would carry out a large-scale operation against the Syrian forces in Lebanon and in Syrian territories.

Al-Asad Thanks Al-Jumayyil for Abrogating Pact

JN051834 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus — President Hafiz al-Asad telephoned Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil to congratulate him on the abrogation of the 17 May agreement. He also thanked him for this abrogation, emphasizing that cancelling this agreement, which the United States and Israel tried to impose on Lebanon, is a victory for the Lebanese and Syrian peoples as well as for the Arab nation. The president told President al-Jumayyil: We in Syria will continue to support Lebanon in its struggle for its sovereignty and independence. During this conversation, the president affirmed the profound ties of fraternity linking Syria and Lebanon.

Damascus Notes Reaction to Treaty Abrogation

JN052235 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2215 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Lebanon's decision to abrogate the agreement of submission has evoked large-scale reactions on the Arab and international levels. The Arab masses received this decision with satisfaction, joy, and support. They described it as a large victory for the pan-Arab policy whose banner is carried by Arab Syria, as well as a victory for Lebanon and the Arab liberation movement. Meanwhile, the hostile forces expressed their indignation and disappointment over this nationalist Lebanese step. Following the Lebanese announcement on the abrogation of the 17 May agreement, the enemy radio emphasized tonight that Israel and the United States have begun to coordinate their stands regarding Israel's demand of security arrangements for its northern borders.

Commentaries View U.S. Role, Treaty Abrogation

U.S. Credibility Viewed

JN051520 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] U.S. rulers are bad losers. They need a long time to digest defeats and coexist with the new realities that the balance of powers and the facts on the ground usually impose on them. The United States, leader of the world imperialist camp, has undoubtedly sustained a political, moral, and military defeat in Lebanon — a fact that undermined all of the region's bets on U.S. credibility and its loyalty to its allies, friends, and agents as well as on U.S. ability to adopt a balanced role in the region. Despite past and present U.S. muscle flexing, what has taken place in Lebanon since the 1982 Israeli invasion has confirmed a number of facts that cannot be overlooked. First, Israel's invasion of Lebanon was carried out with U.S. approval and blessing. Second, the United States has never been honest in claiming that it exerted efforts to evacuate the Israeli invasion forces from Lebanon. Third, the United States exploited the invasion in order to try to turn Lebanon into a base for its forces against Syria and the other Arab countries. Fourth, the U.S. Administration greatly contributed to the return to civil war. Fifth, the U.S. Administration planned and was determined to exploit the situation in Lebanon in order to propagate Camp David in its new form — called the Regan plan — by threatening, pressuring, and blackmailing.

Sixth, U.S. policy always supports Israel, the main base of U.S. strategy in the region. Seventh, the policy of force is an abortive policy in the region, even if a superpower such as the United States resorts to it. Eighth, any solution in Lebanon will never be a U.S. or Israeli solution. It will be a Lebanese one, and then a Syrian and an Arab one. Ninth, those who determine history and geography in the region will never be the U.S. rulers, Israel, or the U.S. vessels, planes, and guns. Those who determine the region's history and geography are the masses of this region and their national and pan-Arab interests. Tenth, Lebanon's fundamental interests do not conflict with Syria's national and pan-Arab interests, but they do conflict with U.S. and Israeli ambitions.

In light of these facts, U.S. defeat in Lebanon was inevitable and certain, despite Reagan's arrogance, threats, and irresponsible actions. Through its steadfastness, principled positions, and assistance to the Lebanese people's nationalist forces, Syria is proud

of foiling U.S. and Israeli plans and of opening the way for Lebanon to realize national accord and safeguard its Arabism, rights, independence, and unity of its land and people. Hand in hand, Syria and Lebanon will work to strengthen Lebanon's independence and its sovereignty over its territory, waters, and skies; and to safeguard the unity of its people and land, and its Arabism. Recent nervous U.S. statements, unrealistic assessments, and false and provocative accusations about Syria and Lebanon are evidence that the U.S. rulers are bad losers who need a long time to coexist with the new reality and the balance of the new forces, which conflict with U.S. imperialist interests.

Abrogation Statement Viewed

JN052228 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 5 Mar 84

[From the "Today's Events" program]

[Text] The abrogation of the 17 May agreement is a victory for the Lebanese masses' will and a defeat for the imperialist and Zionist forces which tried to use this agreement to impose their complete hegemony over Lebanon and later over the Arab homeland. Here is our colleague Yunis Ayyib with further details in the following report:

The Lebanese Cabinet held a session today under the chairmanship of Lebanese President Amin Al-Jumayyil, after which the cabinet issued a statement announcing the abrogation of the 17 May agreement with Israel, considering it null and void, and canceling all of the repercusions entailed by it. The Lebanese Cabinet also decided to communicate the decision on the abrogation of the agreement to the parties that signed it — namely, to the Zionist enemy and the U.S. Government. The cabinet pledged that the Lebanese Government will take the necessary steps to adopt security measures and arrangements that will ensure sovereignty, security, and stability in southern Lebanon, that will prevent infiltration through the southern borders, and that will achieve the Zionist forces' withdrawal from all Lebanese territory.

The statement issued by the Lebanese presidential palace said that the abrogation decision came after the cabinet held a comprehensive discussion today on the current security and political situation. This discussion included the talks Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Amin al-Jumayyil held in Damascus, which showed agreement on several points that constitute an approach to solving the crisis through which Lebanon is passing. At the request of President al-Jumayyil and in view of the current circumstances in Lebanon, Shafiq al-Wazzan temporarily withdrew his resignation, although no decreee has yet been issued on the acceptance of this resignation.

Following the Lebanese Government's abrogation of the agreement, President Hafiz al-Asad contacted President Amin al-Jumayyil and thanked him for the abrogation decision. The president described this decision as a victory for the Lebanese and Syrian peoples and for the Arab nation. The president reaffirmed to the Lebanese president that we in Syria will continue to support Lebanon in its struggle for its sovereignty and independence.

At a time when the political circles and personalities in Lebanon and the Arab homeland welcomed the decision to abrogate the agreement, the Zionist enemy government issued a statement expressing its indignation over this abrogation. Most of its paragraphs were devoted to attacking Syria and its pan-Arab stand, claiming that Syria wants to destroy Lebanon's independence and sovereignty. The enemy government threatened Lebanon and its people that it will know how to adopt measures to protect what it termed the security of its northern settlements.

Regardless of the Israeli reaction to this abrogation, the Lebanese Government's decision is considered — as the president said — to be a victory for the Lebanese and Syrian peoples as well as for the Arab nation, because Israel and the United States tried to use this agreement to impose their absolute hegemony over Lebanon and its destiny as well as over Syria after freezing its ability to move and struggle.

TISHRIN, AL-BA'TH Comment

JN060735 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Press review]

[Text] In an editorial entitled "Lebanon Chooses Its Arab Option," *AL-BA'TH* says:

In a statement yesterday, the Lebanese Government decided to abrogate the 17 May agreement. Thus a new phase in Lebanon's history has begun. The Arabs are unanimous in wishing Lebanon success in bypassing its difficulties and overcoming its problems that have for years been the cause of the great upheavals from which our Arab people in Lebanon have been suffering. The abrogation of the 17 May agreement represents an Arab awakening in the Lebanese regime and constitutional institutions. It is also a response to the will of the majority of the Lebanese people and their nationalist and political forces. It is a long stride toward reconciliation and mobilization in order to reconstruct a new Lebanon by standards that the Lebanese deem fit and with concepts that can be approved by all the Lebanese factions within a political framework for a future Lebanon.

The extent of the Lebanese and Arab happiness over the removal of this nightmare can be compared with the bitterness of Israel and the United States as a result of their failure to subjugate Lebanon and the collapse of the consequences of the Zionist invasion. The Israeli enemy government could not bear the sight of this situation so it ordered its aircraft to pound the Lebanese territory while the Lebanese Cabinet was meeting to officially declare the abrogation of the agreement.

AL-BA'TH adds: The Lebanese experience has proven that the agreements that are imposed by force are not very difficult to cancel. This experience has proved that humble resources, coupled with the determination to struggle, cannot be defeated but are capable of realizing victory over the most tenacious forces of aggression in this world. The fall of the 17 May agreement and the retreat of the Camp David march are a basic fact in the Lebanese arena. Another salient fact for everyone to behold is President Hafiz al-Asad's outstanding steering of the process of

steadfastness and confrontation with a strategic thinking that takes into account the constant as well as changing factors of the situation, and employs their results with accuracy, astuteness, and self-confidence.

AL-BA'TH says: Now that the U.S.-Israeli shadow has been removed from Lebanon by the abrogation of the agreement, the battle has become very clear. All efforts must be pooled to save Lebanon from the Israeli occupation so that Lebanon can restore its independence, sovereignty, and role in its Arab surroundings. Undoubtedly, these efforts will meet with Syria's full support and will be strengthened by an ever expanding Arab mass support that will stress the Syrian experiment and follow its lead in rejecting separate deals and stripping the Zionist entity of the gains it obtained through invasion and aggression.

We in Syria do not demand any gratitutde for this victory from anyone. What Syria has done is part of its pan-Arab stand and sacrifices for the sake of the Arab nation. Syria is aware that the first to be harmed as a result of the abrogation of the agreement is Israel; and that it is the first to create obstacles to a sound Lebanese approach. This was manifested in an immediate enemy government's reaction denouncing the abrogation of the agreement and claiming that Israel reserves for itself the right to retaliate against it.

However, this will not change the new equation that has appeared in Lebanon. This equation is based on rejecting the invasion and all its results, and on resisting the Israeli occupation regardless of the cost. This equation, which has been boldly and intelligently established by President Hafiz al-Asad's leadership, the heroism of our Armed Forces, and the sacrifices of our Lebanese brothers, will have a great effect all over the Arab homeland. It will be the beginning of the end of the U.S.-Zionist plan, and a big stride on the road to Arab victory.

On the same subject *TISHRIN* says: Yesterday, the entire nation congratulated Lebanon and the Lebanese people on the abrogation of the humiliating agreement which the United States and Israel attempted to impose on fraternal Lebanon and its proud Arab people. Honorable men all over the world were happy because the Lebanese Republic has escaped this imperialist-Zionist snare. The enemies wanted to catch Lebanon in this trap so that they could transform its dismembered body into an Israeli protectorate and an imperialist base. In the name of all these honorable men, struggler Arab leader Hafiz al-Asad has congratulated Lebanon, the Lebanese people, and the Lebanese president. He thanked President al-Jumayyil for this great step and this historical decision, which came as a victory for the Lebanese and Syrian peoples and the entire Arab nation; and a great response to the Lebanese, Syrian, and Arab interests that are an indivisible whole.

Let our happiness over the abrogation of the agreement be an incentive and a cause for preparing ourselves for a battle with the enemy, which is still occupying parts of our land and which continues to covet other parts. This enemy will not relinquish its aggressive plans unless it is forced to do so. The cancellation of the agreement will increase the tasks and duties of the Lebanese people because of the need to adopt the path of confrontation that has resulted in this cancellation. As always, Syria will help Lebanon carry out these tasks and efforts regardless of the cost. Let our happy stand today be a stand for readiness, preparation, and a joint, coordinated stand to face the post-abrogation tasks. Let this victory be a beginning of inevitable victories over the hostile plans, whose cards are still on the table and whose tools are still ready.

ATH-THAWRAH Editorial

JN060933 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus, 6 Mar (SANA) — In its editorial today, the newspaper *ATH-THAWRAH* says: The abrogation of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement is not only a victory for Lebanon and Arabism, but also a painful blow to all the Israeli-U.S. plans in Lebanon in particular and in the region in general. The collapse of the agreement has proved first that the Zionist-U.S. plans will not succeed in the region regardless of how long they try, and second that the steadfastness, confrontation, and struggle embodied in Syria's Al-Asad are the only means to determine the region's future, history, and geography, achieve victory for the Arabs, and safeguard their future and dignity.

The paper adds: The collapse of the agreement has also shown that there is a possibility of not only confronting Israel and the United States and hampering the implementation of their plans, but also of foiling these plans and achieving victory over them. If the Arabs seek to carry out this historical task, they can only rally around the Syrian stand and adopt the line of resistance that Syria represents.

The paper stresses: The incidents in Lebanon have proven that relying on the United States is not only an action that lacks foresight, but a very serious adventure; that the U.S. solution cannot offer a cure; and that Uncle Sam does not possess a magic wand to modernize the Arab region.

ATH-THAWRAH concludes: The abrogation of the agreement is a victory for Lebanon, Syria, and all Arabs, and further proof that Syria's course is the only course that can achieve a victory for the Arabs and their causes, and repulse the dangers threatening their destiny, independence, and freedom.

Fatah Dissident Cited on Cancelling 17 May Pact

JN060814 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Nimr Salih, member of the general command of Al-'Asifah forces, has praised the role of Syria and its leader President Hafiz al-Asad in directing the struggle against the enemy. In a statement yesterday, the Palestinian official described the abrogation of the 17 May agreement as a great victory for the Arab nation, a major defeat of the imperialist Zionist scheme and its tools, and a victory for the national liberation movement. He said: The force that has been able to preserve the Arab interests and protect the Palestinian cause from the threats of liquidation will be able to continue the

struggle to liberate the occupied Arab territories and ensure the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

Damascus Cites Berri Denial of Disagreement

JN060924 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] In Lebanon, Nabih Birri, leader of the Lebanese Amal Movement said that the views of the Lebanese national opposition and the leadership in fraternal Syria are absolutely identical. He said that there will not be any different Syrian stand. In a statement in Beirut yesterday, Birri ridiculed reports about a disagreement with Syria and said: Our relations with fraternal Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad are relations of struggle and destiny. Let all the media of insinuation, discord, and agentry be silent.

Al-Kasm Speech on Foreign Policy Reported

JN051633 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Under President Hafiz al-Asad's patronage, the ninth session of the Arab Health Ministers' Council was opened at 1000 today. Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm represented the president of the republic at the opening of the session and delivered the president's address. After reviewing the developments, means, and objectives of Syrian health services, Dr Al-Kasm said: Syria's special and qualitative burdens, which might not exist in another country, imposed major tasks on the people and the responsible authorities as a result of our position that is exposed to dangers and aggression.

Dr al-Kasm added: Syria has not enjoyed peace since its independence. As you all know, Syria has been in a continuous state of war with Israel since it was established. Syria cannot ignore the balance of power, nor the enemy that is trying to move toward the Arab interior. This situation calls for Syria to strengthen its economy and to follow up with a long-term economic plan.

The prime minister said: Difficult experiences are a good means of adjusting everyone to their environment. The battles have adjusted Syria to its dangerous environment. The Syrian economy is always a war economy. When a valiant army, which must be constantly prepared, stands with its men, hardware, and weapons, it is supported by another army of workers, peasants, and producers that stands behind it with their products and farms. The Syrian individual is destined to shoulder the burden of his existence at the frontlines — the burden of the Palestine cause in particular,and the Arab cause in general — and to be affected by the stab of Camp David.

Dr al-Kasm said that political vigilance in Syria awaits any foreign plan, national or pan-Arab deviation, and every fleet that enters nearby waters. He said: The Syrian individual is accustomed to ignoring the defeatists, and those who prefer to relax rather than struggle. The enemies tried to harm Syria through aggression, pressure, and siege, in addition to implementing the carrot and stick policy. Battles have their ups and downs. However, we believe today that we have achieved great victory against the enemies, who have temporarily reduced their activities in the Middle East after paying heavily for their experience.

The prime minister said: The next round will be more important and more effective. We have convinced the United States and Israel that Syria is a solid Arab barrier which cannot be overcome. This matter has become the subject of analysis, explanation, and commentary in their press which have dealt with the Syrian role and its great leader Hafiz al-Asad, the symbol of national and pan-Arab steadfastness and loftiness as well as the hope of the nation and the people.

The prime minister added: The difference is clear between he who wants to resist and he who wants to capitulate; and between the one who discovers that Israel will not be stopped from expansion, and from striking at Arab nationalism with a negotiator or so-called realistic [sentence as heard]. The United States hides its policy and frankly announces that Israel's interests in the region have priority. What surprises us is that some parties try to gain acceptance for the enemy's logic and behavior. We realize that misleading politics and propaganda are weapons that are raised against minds and spirits. The Lebanese arena was a good place to test intentions and objectives.

The past years have proved that the Syrian presence in Lebanon was a pan-Arab presence that stopped the killing, aborted slogans of division and collaboration with Israel, and prepared the atmosphere for a sound national accord. However, the Israeli invasion in 1982, and the NATO presence in 1983 prompted forces of destruction, killing, and division. Syria now is the one responsible for preventing the conspiracy, and for preventing Israel from becoming a trustee over Lebanese affairs. Protecting Lebanon means protecting the Palestine cause and the Arab interests, especially since we will not allow the Palestine cause to be liquidated through Camp David channels, which the defeatists want to follow instead of folowing the one and difficult path.

Dr al-Kasm concluded the speech by saying: This session will be rich with fruitful studies and recommendations from which we will benefit.

Damascus Reports on Canadian Delegation Visit

JN050808 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum has praised Syria's pan-Arab role under President Hafiz al-Asad and Syria's heroic confrontation of the U.S. capitulatory schemes seeking to impose U.S. hegemony on the Arab region. During his meeting yesterday with a Canadian House of Commons delegation led by (Robert Kolek), currently visiting Syria, Al-Fahum reiterated the Palestinian people's right to determine their fate on their soil, and to establish their independent state on their national soil, and the Palestinian people's rejection of any idea about a substitute homeland.

Khalid al-Fahum also stressed the Palestinian people's eagerness to safeguard the PLO's unity. He said: The complete adherance to the PNC resolutions and the nondeviation from any of its resolutions safeguards national unity.

Khalid al-Fahum explained that a just and comprehensive solution cannot be achieved through separate solutions at the expense of the Palestinian people, particularly the Camp David accords and Reagan's plan, but through an international conference supervised by the United Nations and attended by all the parties concerned in addition to the USSR and the United States. He said that this conference must be held on the basis of the UN resolutions. The Palestinian and Candaian sides stressed the impossibility of establishing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East if Syria is excluded. (Robert Kolek) expressed appreciation for Syria's constructive role in the Middle East in general and in Lebanon in particular. He also said that the delegation members and large sectors of the Canadian people are very well aware of the justness of the Palestine cause and the Palestinian people's struggle, and that they hope that a just peace in the Middle East will be achieved and that the Palestinian people will be given the right to determine their fate.

Further Details of Visit

JN060656 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] (Robert Kolek), head of the visiting Canadian parliamentary delegation, has praised Syria's important role in the region, saying that he would convey Syria's important role to his country and the Western world. This came when People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi' received (Kolek) today.

Mahmud az-Zu'bi also explained the existing situation in the Arab region, pointing to the imperialist and Zionist threats that are being directed at the Arab nation. He also stressed Syria's principle, firm position toward these challenges and its determination to courageously confront any aggression against the Arab nation until our people's objectives are achieved. These objectives include building and liberating the occupied Arab territories, the Palestinian people's retrieval of their established rights, and the establishment of their own independent state on their land and homeland.

Reportage on Reaction to Lebanese Accord Abrogation

Shamir Spokesman Comments

TA051817 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1803 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Within hours of the Lebanese Government's decision to cancel the agreement, the Israeli Government put out a statement saying Israel was still ready to carry out the 17 May accord. David Essing reports:

[Begin recording] [Essing] The government both condemned and regretted the Lebanese decision and Israel pointed an accusing finger at Syria. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's spokesman, Avi Pazner, had this government reaction:

[Pazner] It's one of condemnation of it because we think that this abrogation of the treaty was made under duress by President Amin al-Jumayyil who gave in to Syrian threats and to Syrian violence and brutality. And, therefore, it put Lebanon in a condition where it can hardly be conceived any more as a sovereign and independent state.

[Essing] Jerusalem held that the cancellation was more harmful to Lebanon than to Israel. At the same time, Israel would continue to foster its friendly ties with the Lebanese people. Israeli policymakers and the Israeli army have already begun consultations on what security arrangements will be adopted now in southern Lebanon. The wounding of 15 Israeli soldiers yesterday has spurred on those discussions. Avi Pazner says decisions can be expected in the near future.

[Pazner] The decision of the Lebanese Government today changes the situation because it does not make any more Lebanese troops available to enter the south and take care of security in that region.

[Essing] There have been persistent reports that Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil has asked Israel to reopen the negotiations. Is this true, and if so, will Israel agree to do this?

[Pazner] I can only tell you one thing: We have agreed on the 17 May agreement. We did not cancel it; we still stick to the 17 May agreement. We do not see any reason to ask now anybody or to give in to the requests of anybody to renew negotiations. There is no reason for that and I don't think Israel is willing to adopt such a policy.

[Essing] Mr Pazner, this was to have been the second agreement between Israel and an Arab country, following Egypt's agreement. How serious a blow is the cancellation to the overall Middle East peace process and what are the implications?

[Pazner] It's obviously a very worrying factor that you have an agreement signed between Israel and a neighboring country and then comes another country, in this case Syria, who under the threat of violence and brutality forces Lebanon to cancel its treaty with Israel. This is, I think, a development which is negative and which we will have to take into action whilst coming in the future to negotiate with Arab states.

[Essing] Israeli sources say they see little prospect of an overall negotiations on security arrangements that would include Syria. The sources do not believe that President al-Asad will agree to such a move. [end recording]

Pazner Denounces Lebanese Decision

JN060809 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Avi Pazner, the spokesman of the prime minister, made a statement this afternoon in which he strongly denounced the Lebanese Government's decision to cancel the Lebanese- Israeli agreement. The statement says that Israel will find the adequate means to guarantee its security, because Lebanon is in no position now to fulfill its international obligations and to prevent southern Lebanon from once again becoming a base for terrorist operations against Israel.

The statement affirms that Israel still harbors love and friendship for the Lebanese people and that it will continue to strengthen its relations with its friends with whom it has had established strong ties for a long time.

The spokesman of the prime minister said Israel hopes that Lebanon will succeed in regaining its sovereignty and getting rid of the Syrian restrictions. He added that Israel is still ready to abide by the provisions of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement.

The spokesman of the prime minister held Syria responsible for obstructing the efforts to expand the peace process in the Middle East. He affirmed that Syria is an obstacle to Lebanon's stability. He said: Immediately after the conclusion of the agreement between Lebanon and Israel, Damascus worked for the abrogation of this agreement and resorted to violence. The spokesman affirmed that Syria has forced the Lebanese Government to submit to its conditions and that this Syrian diktat means the elimination of Lebanon's independence and sovereignty.

Pazner told our political correspondent Dov Rabinovich that Israel will not enter into any alternative negotiations with Lebanon. However, our political correspondent has learned that the Lebanese Government has made an offer to Israel to begin negotiations with the participation of the United States on security arrangements in southern Lebanon. These negotiations, he said, are to be conducted along the same lines as last spring's negotiations in Qiryat Shemona and Khaldah. Our correspondent added that the Lebanese offer is currently being studied in Jerusalem. Our correspondent believes that the Israeli Government will eventually agree to this offer even if it continued to make strongly-worded statements against the abrogation of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement.

Pazner on Lebanese Ties

TA051519 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Israel itself will find the appropriate ways to guarantee its security, since Lebanon — in its current situation — is incapable of fulfilling its international commitments and preventing

southern Lebanon from turning into a new base for terrorist activity. This was the reaction of the prime minister's spokesman on the announcement made by the Lebanese Government on the absolute abrogation of the accord with Israel. The spokesman, Avi Pazner, added that Israel continues to feel friendship for the Lebanese people and will foster ties with its friends there. Israel hopes Lebanon will be able to recover its sovereignty and free itself from the Syrian yoke, which is an obstacle to its independence and the main factor disrupting the attempts to broaden the peace circle in the Middle East.

Lebanon has already offered Israel opening talks, with U.S. participation, on security arrangements in southern Lebanon. The talks would be held in a framework similar to the talks conductedlast spring and according to the Lebanese proposal would also be held in Qiryat Shemona and Khaldah.

The prime minister's spokesman said that Israel will not enter into any alternative negotiations with Lebanon, but our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer believes that in the end the government will accept the proposal, even if at first it comes out firmly and frequently with declarations opposing the abrogation of the accord.

Arens Comments

TA061022 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] The defense minister has stated that the abrogation of the agreement with Lebanon will not affect the IDF deployment in southern Lebanon. According to him, the IDF has for some months now been taking steps to ensure its objectives of safeguarding peace in the Galilee. Minister Arens stresses that this is Israel's only aim. In order to achieve it, the security forces are negotiating with local organizations in southern Lebanon to convince them that they themselves should take the burden of preserving order, instead of IDF soldiers. Minister Arens states that the grave thing about Lebanon's decision to cancel the agreement is the behavior of President al-Asad. The Syrian president has proved that he is prepared to resort to violence in order to make sure that no element in the region establishes ties with Israel. Minister Arens was speaking to our correspondent Hayim Hecht.

Shim'on Peres Interviewed

TA051551 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1512 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Interview with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres by Knesset correspondent Gil'ad Mishori at Knesset building in Jerusalem on 5 March — recorded]

[Text] [Peres] Israel must unilaterally and immediately implement those clauses in the Israeli-Lebanese agreement pertaining to the security of northern Israel.

[Mishori] That is to say, to withdraw to new security lines or once again wait several months in the field — what must happen in the field now?

[Peres] One must examine the clauses pertaining to the security issue as follows: The right to overfly Lebanese skies — this can be implemented at once; the right to patrol along the Lebanese coast — this can be implemented at once; the reorganization of Haddad's forces, or what used to be called Haddad's forces, into an orderly and bigger force — this can be implemented shortly; leaving behind intelligence and early-warning means in southern Lebanon — this can be implemented.

In fact, we do not need the permission of anybody else. At the same time, we must announce that if the terrorists try to return to southern Lebanon, the IDF will cross the border, repel them, and return back home. There would be a flexible maneuvering space and Israel would keep its eyes open for the return of the terrorists, and if they try to make their way back, repel them without any hesitation.

[Mishori] In other words, the IDF is not supposed to ultimately remain in the field under any condition whatsoever.

[Peres] In my opinion, there is no room for keeping a visible IDF presence in its current deployment. The IDF is not an entrenching army; it is a mobile army; it is not a ruling army, but a defense army. The combination of mobility and defense must be the basis for our organizing in southern Lebanon.

[Mishori] Do you think this is the absolute end of the Lebanese war?

[Peres] It may still go on. If we do not make decisions it may still go on, of course. We may commit two errors: first, to expose our soldiers to attacks and, second, to encourage the anti-Israeli forces to regroup and escalate their activities — and this is what we want to prevent.

[Mishori] How do you propose to do that?

[Peres] I have explained the method: security arrangements, as the government itself specified. After all, the government itself specified them.

[Mishori] That is, you do not have an argument with the government?

[Peres] I have an argument with this government because it thought that the agreement would be implemented. What I say is that the implementation of the agreement could have been fulfilled without the agreement, but I do not want to go into these details today. Today we must make clear-cut decisions and draw the conclusions.

[Mishori] This is the second agreement with an Arab state that Israel has signed. What do you think is the fate of such agreements? Does this issue not have implications beyond the immediate issue of Lebanon on our relations with the various Arab countries in general?

[Peres] The answer is rather simple: An agreement cannot be stronger than the country one signs it with. The problem with the Lebanese is not one of agreements, but of the country itself. Just as an agreement cannot strengthen or change Lebanon, so Leba-

non cannot (?execute it) and we cannot count on it to implement it.

For instance, the fact that there are no PLO members in Jordan and in Egypt stems from the simple fact that these countries did not let them in and, consequently, there was no need for us to intervene there. The problem with Lebanon is its weakness, and this is why all the Arab countries pushed the PLO into Lebanon, because of its weakness. We must remedy this weakness by remote control rather than by maintaining a presence on the scene.

Begin Interviewed

TA051753 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Interview with former Prime Minister Menahem Begin by Avner Tavori "about an hour ago"; place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Tavori] Mr Begin, you must have heard of the Lebanese Government's announcement of the abrogation of the accord with Israel. What is your reaction?

[Begin] There is no doubt that this is a negative development as far as Israel is concerned, but it is also negative from the Lebanese point of view. In fact, Lebanon has totally surrendered to the Syrians, and this action — as only the future will tell us — will affect Lebanon greatly.

As for us, I am convinced the Cabinet will make all the security arrangements to guarantee peace in the country, not only in the north but primarily in the north, and I am convinced this was not only the intention and message of the government's announcement today, but that this will furthermore be the outcome as well.

[Tavori] Should Israel conduct negotiations over security arrangements in Lebanon with Syria, too?

[Begin] Negotiations should be conducted with anyone who wishes to conduct negotiations, but the Syrians do not want to conduct any negotiations with us. This is a fact.

[Tavori] What if it turns out that such negotiations are possible, perhaps together with the de facto partition of Lebanon?

[Begin] I do not think this is correct. We do not want to partition any country, but have always wanted to honor the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon — and have said so explicitly — but the whole world knows we have a problem in guaranteeing security in the northern part of the country.

So this should be taken care of, and if, as you told me, the Cabinet said in its announcement that it will take care of it, then its announcement should be taken as a promise.

[Tavori] How do you think the new state of affairs will affect the continued IDF presence in Lebanon?

[Begin] The government has already announced that it does not want to maintain any army in Lebanon, but that it must make arrangements that will prevent attacks on the northern part of Israel.

[Tavori] Thank you very much, Mr Menahem Begin.

Schiffer on Bilateral Relations

TA051749 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] Despite the Lebanese Government's announcement of the abrogation of the accord with Israel, bilateral relations are characterized by a "business as usual" air. Thus, delegations of Christians, clergymen, and Maronites arrived in Israel today to conduct talks in the hope of tightening relations with Israel. Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim informed Israel's representatives in Beirut that his government is prepared to immediately open talks in a framework similar to the previous one in which talks were held in Khaldah and Qiryat Shemona over security arrangements in southern Lebanon with U.S. participation.

The government spokesmen today found it difficult to color the announcement of the annulment by Lebanon with dramatic flavor. Everything was anticipated. The announcement, read by the prime minister's spokesman, Avi Pazner, waited for 2 weeks before it was read in public. The accusing finger was directed at Syria, which brought about the abrogation of the agreement.

[Begin Pazner recording] In light of the fact that Lebanon is not able, in this state of affairs, to fulfill its international commitments and prevent southern Lebanon from again becoming a base for terrorist activity against Israel, Israel will itself find the appropriate ways to guarantee its security. At the same time, Israel will continue to express its friendship for the Lebanese people, particularly for friends with whom it has maintained close relations for some time now. Israel hopes Lebanon will be able to recover its sovereignty and free itself of Syrian rule. Today, too, Israel is ready to observe the 17 May 1983 agreement. [end recording]

At the top of the agenda now are agreed-upon security arrangements to replace the abrogated agreement. On this, we asked Minister Avraham Sharir for his opinion:

[Begin recording] [Sharir] I would like to say, first of all, that our expectations of the agreement were never high to begin with, but the serious aspect of it is that this is the first time we had an agreement signed between Israel and an Arab government abrogated. The danger is that this could conceivably become a precedent. This, to my mind, is a most serious danger. That is why I would say that even if there is a proposal to enter into new negotiations, we should understand that we cannot do this. First, we do not know on what basis they want us to resume a dialogue on this matter. Second, I think that in terms of the political aspects, once an accord is abrogated, it would be unthinkable to begin discussions on a new agreement. Therefore I think the

political conditions are not yet ripe for entering into talks with the Lebanese Government. I will oppose this. I think that first of all we must express how seriously we view the unilateral revocation of a properly signed agreement ratified by the two countries. I think we must also bring into the picture the other element responsible for the signing this accord — namely the United States — in this respect it seems to me that time for this is not right.

[Schiffer] Mr Sharir, as a moral gleaned from this, everyone now talks about the fact that it is impossible to establish a central government in Lebanon that would be able to control and rule over the entire country. Could all this not have been known in the course of all these past months, when the assessment was that in fact the agreement is not worth the paper it is written on?

[Sharir] You are actually right in saying that the accord is not worth the paper it is written on. In retrospect, it seems to me that it was a mistake not to review the political aspects of our involvement in Lebanon; instead we only concentrated and focused on the military aspect. Today it is obvious that the political angles are what counts, as this agreement — which was the most important link in terms of the hope we were given to end the involvement in Lebanon — led us to hope, even if somewhat hesitatingly, from the start. [end recording]

In short, the prime minister may approach the United States — which was the partner and perhaps the architect of the accord with Lebanon — in the very near future, and inform it of the gravity with which Israel views its abrogation. Government spokesmen will continue to condemn those who revoked it and pledge allegiance to the agreement, but we will not err in making the assessment this evening that the reality will be stronger than the words and that in the future, once the storm is over, the parties will convene for negotiations that will result in agreed-upon security arrangements, acceptable to Israel and Syria, with the participation of the Lebanese Government.

IDF Policy Options Expected

TA060733 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Mar 84 pp 1,2

[Report by David Landau]

[Excerpt] The government expects the IDF to submit new policy options for south Lebanon, following the Lebanese Government's abrogation yesterday of the agreement with Israel.

Speaking to *THE JERUSALEM POST* yesterday, Deputy Prime Minister David Levi held out the prospect of a redeployment by the IDF. The Cabinet, he said, would discuss the possibilities — "in my opinion soon." The new deployment should "avoid our being stuck in a hostile civilian population" and at the same time should provide the IDF with the capacity "to deter (terrorist action), and to prevent and to react if necessary."

It was simplistic, Levi said, to think in bald terms of picking up and getting out of Lebanon. That was not in prospect. There had to be, though "a middle course — ensuring a minimum of danger for our troops and a maximum of potential to deter and to react."

Official Jerusalem reacted bitterly when the news came through from Beirut of the formal abrogation announcement. A statement issued by the prime minister's office accused Syria of "forcing Lebanon to surrender to a dictate which is tantamount to a death-sentence on Lebanese independence."

The statement said that since Lebanon had proved "unable to fulfil its international commitments and to prevent south Lebanon from becoming once again a base for terrorism, Israel, on its own, will find suitable means of protecting its security."

Government officials said this meant Israel was no longer committed to the limitations and restrictions it had taken on itself in the May 17 agreement; and would now seek security arrangements in the south without regard to the May 17 provisions.

The officials stressed, though, that Israel still desired and intended to withdraw from all of south Lebanon — once such security arrangements proved effective. There has been no revision or erosion of this fundamental policy aim, they said.

The officials could not explain, however, what they meant by "security arrangements" given that efforts to woo the local Shi'ites into setting up anti-terrorist militias have failed.

Indeed, the formal abrogation of the agreement by Beirut, though not unexpected, seems to have deepened the confusion and uncertainty affecting the Israel Government as it contemplates the collapse of its Lebanon policy.

Official spokesman asserted yesterday that there was no point in renegotiating security arrangements with Lebanon. The Al-Jumayyil government had proved incapable of honouring the earlier agreement and there was little prospect of its being able to implement a new accord, these spokesmen contended.

Yet, among key policymakers, there was anticipation of a renewed dialogue soon with the Lebanese Government.

Syrian Forces in Al-Biqa' Reported on Alert

TA060628 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Radio Monte Carlo reports that Syria has declared an alert of its forces facing the IDF in the Al-Biqa'. The radio's Damascus correspondent states that the alert is linked to President al-Jumayyil's decision to call off the agreement with Israel. Damascus is fearful of a military reaction by Israel and the United States to this step.

Our correspondent in Washington reported last night that the United States and Israel have already begun to plan security arrangements in southern Lebanon between them. Lebanon's foreign minister has informed the Israeli representatives in Beirut that his government is prepared to open immediate negotiations on security arrangements in southern Lebanon, with the participation of the United States.

Soviet Officers Reportedly Visit Syrian Frontline

TA021230 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 Mar 84 p 1

[Report by Hayim (Raviya)]

[Text] "Every now and then Soviet officers visit the Syrian frontline in the Lebanese Al-Biqa' facing the IDF units. It is true that they do not come on these visits wearing Soviet Army uniforms, but we distinguish their skin color and facial features." This is what a senior officer in the eastern sector of Lebanon has to tell.

Thousands of Soviets are now in Syria. According to various estimates, their numbers vary between 5,000 and 8,000 expert officers.

"Some of them are apparently there as advisers to the Syrian forces in Lebanon, and other Russian officers are even carrying out operational ranks, in surface-to-air missile batteries inside Syrian territory," the officer said.

The calm in the Lebanese Al-Biqa' is permitting hundreds of the inhabitants of the area, 3 days a week, to move over to the area under the Syrians' control and back. At the official crossing point, north of the village of Jubb Jannin, Lebanese citizens can go to the towns of Zahlah and Ba'labakk in the Syrian area on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. "They can leave in cars, but on the way back it is forbidden to enter in vehicles, because of the fear of smuggling weapons," people in the eastern sector say.

For the first time since the fighting in June 1982, the Syrians have permitted the Druze inhabitants to repair a water pipe in the no-man's-land between the IDF and the Syrian Army, across from the village of As-Sultan Ya'qub at-Tafta. The pipe which supplies water to the Druze villages in the region of Rashayya was damaged during the war and the repair work was begun on it about 2 weeks ago.

Chief of Staff on IDF Withdrawal From Lebanon

TA042115 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 4 March 84

[Text] Chief of Staff Moshe Levi says that the situation in Lebanon obliges us to refrain from demanding that the government quickly withdraw the IDF from Lebanon. It is now, at this time, the chief of staff says, that patience and resoluteness are called for, and caution and thoroughness must be used in making appropriate arrangements which will ensure our security in Lebanon.

The chief of staff was speaking to an audience of the Young Israel movement in Jerusalem, marking 10 years of its activity. Our correspondent Yona Kohen reports that the movement has 35 branches throughout the country, including synagogues and community centers.

Government Sources on Arens U.S. Talks

TA041724 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Government sources say that Defense Minister Arens got the impression from his talks in Washington that one cannot expect any progress on the issue of incorporating Jordan into the peace process before the U.S. elections are held. Remarks in this spirit were made by Minister Arens to the ministers today, in summing up his talks in Washington.

Four Arabs Wounded in Ramallah District 4 Mar

TA040537 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0532 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Here is a report just handed over to us by our correspondent Arye Gus: Four Arab workers were wounded this morning from light weapons fire directed at a bus near the village of Al-Mazra'ah Ash-Sharqiyah in the Ramallah District. Our correspondent in Judaea and Samaria Arye Gus reports that the bus was driving Arab workers to their jobs in Israel. The wounded men were transferred to the hospital in Ramallah for treatment. The security forces have begun searching the area.

Blackout Imposed After Incident

TA040921 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] The security forces have imposed a news blackout on the investigation into the incident in which six [as heard] Arab workers from the territories were wounded this morning near Al-Mazra'ah Ash-Sharqiyah. The workers were on the way to their jobs in Israel when fire was opened at the bus they were riding in. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the passengers on the bus said that four people had opened fire.

TNT Claims Responsibility

TA050618 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] The TNT organization has claimed responsibility for yesterday's ambush in which seven Arab passengers on a bus were wounded, one of them seriously. An anonymous caller telephoned one of the newspapers and said: the Shlomo Ben-Yosef Brigade of TNT has struck in Samaria. Jewish blood is not cheap; this is just the beginning. Shlomo Ben-Yosef was the first Jew to be hanged by the British in Palestine. He was captured after trying to ambush an Arab bus in Galilee.

Suspects in Ramallah, Temple Mount Incidents Arrested.

TA060552 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Seven residents of settlements in Judaea and Samaria have been arrested, suspected of taking part in the attack on a bus near Ramallah. Also, two residents of Holon are suspected of the attempted attack on the Temple Mount. Our police affairs

correspondent Shlomo Raz is in the studio. Do you have any answers?

[Raz] The question is, are we talking about the TNT [Terror Against Terror] organization. That is the key question the various security branches are now focusing their investigation on. Let us just note that TNT is the organization which has on several occasions assumed responsibility for placing boobytrapped hand grenades in Christian and Muslim religious institutions, as well as in several villages in Judaea. As stated earlier, we do not rule out the possibility that the answer may be positive.

The seven suspects who have been arrested are being held following the attack on the bus near Ramallah, and they are the subject of the investigation. The arrests were made because the license number of the vehicle from which the shots were fired had been noted. It was a blue Subaru. Once the ownership of the car was ascertained, seven suspects were arrested. Those arrested are Jews with U.S. citizenship who live in settlements beyond the Green Line. This is the first investigation to be carried out in Judaea and Samaria since the Karp report was published, and the police have invested a great deal of effort. Some 20 cartridges were found near the site of the incident, and a number of bullets were found in the bus itself, all of them from Uzi submachine guns. Apparently the security forces have also found the actual weapons involved. At present, the men are being interrogated, and ballistic tests are being carried out, which will perhaps help provide answers to several other shooting incidents in the past.

As for the attempted attack on the Temple Mount, in this connection the police are holding two suspects, and so far as we know these are two residents of Holon. They were found to possess suspicious objects, and apparently also documents and a ladder. The interrogation is in full swing at this point, and understandably a very heavy news blackout has been imposed by the security forces.

Justice Minister on Arrests

TA060620 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Justice Minister Moshe Nisim says there can be no talk of having uncovered a Jewish underground organization in the territories following the arrest of suspects in the attempted attack on Temple Mount, and in the attack on the bus near Ramallah. Minister Nisim stressed that the men who have been arrested are still only suspects, and clear proof is needed in order to state that an underground movement exists. He was speaking to our correspondent Arye Golan.

Kahana Comments on Arrests

TA060559 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0924 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] The seven detainees in connection with the bus attack near Ramallah are members of the KAKH movement. This was stated by the movement's leader, Rabbi Me'ir Kahana. The movement will hold a press conference this evening or tomorrow morning, in which it will give its reaction to the arrests.

In a talk with our correspondent Gil Ronen, Rabbi Kahana said that at the press conference he would speak on the TNT [Terror Against Terror] underground movement, as well as the issue of counter-terrorism in general. Rabbi Kahana said he would raise the question of whether acts such as the attack on an Arab bus are justified by the halakah and by sheer common sense, and whether they are good or bad for Jews, as Rabbi Kahana put it. The leader of the KAKH movement further said that he still does not know whether those members of his movement who have been arrested are in fact guilty of the attack.

Hand Grenade Explodes Near E. Jerusalem Hospital

TA050951 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Mar 84 p 3

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[Text] An IDF-made hand grenade exploded yesterday at 0600 near the Hospice Hospital in East Jerusalem. The police were notified about the event only 3 hours after it took place, and the police bomb disposal experts who arrived at 0900 found a small crater and a few splinters, which they gathered.

It is suspected that the hand grenade was planted by the group calling itself TNT [Terror Against Terror]. The last action attributed to this group involved directing shots at a monk in 'En Kerem. Fourteen similar acts were reported earlier in Jerusalem and its vicinity.

Yesterday an unidentified person called the IDF radio's hot line and said that the TNT organization took responsibility for the hand grenade explosion.

UNIFIL Soldiers Discover Explosives in Lebanon

TA051001 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Mar 84 p 2

[Report by Menahem Horowitz]

[Text] Three explosives charges were discovered over the weekend by Norwegian UNIFIL soldiers. The explosive charges were discovered in Lebanon's eastern sector, and soldiers of UNIFIL's Norwegian battalion blew them up.

In their talks with UN people, IDF officers in southern Lebanon expressed their appreciation for the fact that UNIFIL soldiers in southern Lebanon are actively helping prevent terrorist acts in southern Lebanon.

The IDF spokesman in the Northern Command, Lieutenant Colonel Yona Gazit, yesterday firmly denied media reports saying that the IDF is angry about the behavior of soldiers from the Norwegian battalion, and that they were not cooperating with the IDF forces.

Lt Gen Gazit emphasized that in future it will be the UN soldiers who will decide how to handle the explosive charges they find in southern Lebanon.

IDF, UNIFIL Cooperation Statement

TA051316 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] The IDF and UNIFIL in southern Lebanon this morning agreed on procedures for cooperation when sabotage charges are discovered. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that in a meeting between IDF representatives and UNIFIL command personnel, appreciation was expressed to the UN soldiers for their contribution in discovering bombs on the Marj 'Uyun-Hasbayya road in recent weeks. A joint announcement by the two sides stated that there is complete understanding between the IDF and UNIFIL on matters which concern security for southern Lebanese residents. Our correspondent notes that Jerusalem nowadays takes particular care to maintain good relations with UNIFIL because of the possibility that UN forces will play a key role in the security arrangements in southern Lebanon.

IDF Fired On in Sidon; UNIFIL Incident

TA031657 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Fire was directed at an IDF position in Sidon today. Nobody was hurt. Our correspondent reports that one RPG was apparently fired at a position near the Kokhav Square in Sidon.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the UN Command in southern Lebanon prevented the IDF from examining two sabotage charges discovered by UNIFIL patrols. A senior officer told our correspondent that UNIFIL's refusal to cooperate in face of terrorist activity turns this force into a security hazard. A UNIFIL spokesman rejected this charge, saying that in his opinion there is adequate cooperation with the IDF.

IDF Patrol Fire Kills Two in Sidon 3 March

TA031930 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Our military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky reports that on Friday morning, an IDF patrol opened fire at a local vehicle [in the Sidon area] which disobeyed the order to stop. Two local residents were killed as a result.

In protest against this incident, a strike was staged in the UNRWA school in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp near Sidon.

Three IDF Casualties in Sidon Port Explosion 4 Mar

TA040900 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0855 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Three IDF soldiers were wounded this morning in Sidon when an explosive device went off near an IDF position in the Sidon port area.

The IDF spokesman reports that two local residents were also wounded in the explosion. The wounded were taken to a hospital. The IDF has begun a search.

Casualties Rise in Sidon

TA041524 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Eleven IDF soldiers and a number of local residents were wounded in this morning's incident in Sidon. Earlier it was reported that three of our soldiers were wounded. Ten of the wounded sustained slight injuries, and one was wounded seriously.

The IDF spokesman announces that the incident took place when three explosive charges were detonated in Sidon port. The wounded were transferred to a hospital for treatment.

Our military correspondent reports that a preliminary investigation revealed that two of the charges had been placed on the pier, and a third hidden in a boat. They were activated when an IDF force reached the pier in Sidon as part of its ongoing activities. As stated, 11 soldiers and a number of local residents were wounded in the incident.

IDF Closes Sidon Port

TA041616 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] The IDF has closed off the approaches to Sidon port following this morning's incident, in the course of which 11 soldiers were wounded, one of them seriously. A local resident was killed and three others were wounded in the incident. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that fishing boats have been forbidden to enter the port, and concurrently cars are not allowed to enter by road.

Further IDF Casualties Reported

TA041718 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Another four IDF soldiers were wounded in the afternoon when an armored personnel carrier hit a mine in the area of the village of Ba'lul east of the Al-Qir'awn lake. The IDF spokesman reports that the soldiers were transferred to a hospital. The IDF forces have begun combing operations.

The IDF has blocked the entries to the Sidon port following the incident which took place there this morning. In the course of the incident 15 [figure as heard] IDF soldiers were wounded, one of them seriously. A local resident was killed and three others were wounded in addition. Our correspondent notes that fishing boats have been forbidden to enter the port and the IDF is also preventing people and vehicles to enter by way of land.

Our correspondent Gabi Zohar reports that the wounded soldiers were hospitalized in the Haifa Rambam hospital and in the Nahariyya Hospital. Three of them were operated on and, as said, the condition of one of them is serious while the two others received medium wounds. The other soldiers were wounded slightly.

Leaders Request Port Reopening

TA051016 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Leaders in Sidon have asked the IDF forces to open the town's port. Sidon port is still closed, and the security forces are still investigating the explosions which wounded 11 soldiers yesterday. Two ships which wanted to unload cargoes in Sidon port this morning were not permitted to enter and sailed to Beirut. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the leaders of Sidon say the closure of the port is disrupting economic life. In reply to the request, IDF officers said the port would only be opened at the end of the investigation, which will apparently last several days.

Protest Submitted to Egypt About Conference

TA051215 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Israel has submitted an official protest to Egypt about its intention to convene a conference on the Palestinian issue in Cairo this month. The spokesman of the Israeli Embassy in Cairo has said that the conference will serve as a propaganda platform against the Camp David agreement, against the peace process and against Israel. On another matter, the spokesman said that representatives from Israel will attend the international fair for agricultural products that is to open in Cairo at the end of this week.

Briefs

Tax Revenue Goes Down — Tax collection continued to decline last month. According to figures released yesterday by the Treasury, state revenue from taxes totalled some IS85 billion in February, a 23 percent decrease in real terms from February 1983. The ministry announced that since last April, tax revenue went down by 4.8 percent in real terms as compared with April 1982-February 1983 period. In the past 11 months the Treasury has collected some IS601B. in taxes. [Excerpt][Jerusalem *THE JERUSALEM POST* in English 5 Mar 84 p 1 TA]

ALGERIA

Bendjedid Receives Message From PDRY Leader

LD051417 Algiers APS in English 1115 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Algiers, 5/3 (APS) — President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic, FLN party secretary general audienced yesterday Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Politburo member, foreign minister who gave him an account of the results of his official visits to Ethiopia and Tanzania, and the session of the OAU Council of Ministers met in Addis Ababa.

President Chadli further received the ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Yemen, Mr 'Abd al-Wakil as-Saruri who handed him over a message from President 'Ali Nasir of Yemen.

Bulgarian CP Delegation Starts Official Visit

LD041216 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Algiers, 4 Mar (APS) — An important delegation from the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party arrived in Algiers last night, headed by Stoyan Mikhaylov, secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee, and including Yordan Kirov, deputy chief of the Central Committee Foreign Policy and Foreign Relations Department, and Angel Mahchev, coordinating official of the Central Committee Foreign Policy and Foreign Relations Department, to pay an official visit of a few days at the invitation of the FLN Central Committee.

LIBYA

Masses Celebrate Abrogation of 17 May Agreement

LD060310 Tripoli JANA in English 2027 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada al ULLA 30, March 5, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Giant popular marches were carried out in Tripoli this evening to celebrate the resouding victory of the free popular struggle in Lebanon which led to the abrogation of the May 17 1983 agreement between the Zionist enemy, Lebanese Government and America.

The masses surged forth in human chains, upon hearing the decision of abrogating the submissive agreement, in Tripoli's streets and squares and headed towards the international conferences' headquarters.

The masses expressed joy for the patriotic victory that restored confidence to the Arab masses, enhanced the popular struggle for the inevitability of victory for the revolution and burned all the treacherous and humiliating papers and agreement signed by the symbols of treachery and submission to betray and stab the Arab nation's bitter struggle against its enemies.

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks on Abrogation

LD060312 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1915 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 5 Mar (JANA) — The brother leader of the revolution delivered an important speech to the people who went out in huge popular masses this evening in Tripoli in jubilation over the abrogation of the humiliating 17 May agreement.

The leader began his speech by saying that we were firmly committed to defeating the 17 May agreement, which is considered a second stable David. Here last May we decided to struggle to burn this humiliating agreement. On that day an alliance began with the Lebanese natioal government, the Palestinian resistance and the Syrian Arab Republic in an effort to burn this agreement, which is considered stable David No 2.

The leader continued saying: Today the Lebanese Government was forced to abrogate the 17 May agreement. He confirmed that the rifle is what abrogated and burned the 17 May agreement, and that the noble Arab blood is what erased the 17 May agreement in spite of America, in spite of the Israelis, in spite of the Phalangists, and in spite of the cowardly feeble Arab reactionarism.

He stressed that the abrogation of the 17 May agreement was a clear victory for the holy alliance of the Islamic revolution in Iran, the people's revolution in Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic and the National Salvation Front representing the Lebanese people. [passage indistinct]

The leader of the revolution declared that as of today the Libyan forces stationed in the Al-Biqa' valley should either join the fight of the Lebanese people against the Israelis, if there is a need for them, or return to Syrian territory or to the Libyan Arab territory after having accomplished their mission.

The leader of the great 1 September Revolution said: We informed the rulers of the Arab nation last May that they had to define their stand toward the humiliating 17 May agreement, which usurped another Arab country after Egypt and annexed it in the service of the enemy and his strategy against the Arab nation. But they bowed their heads, with the exception of Syria, which stood with us and with the patriotic forces and the Iranian revolution against this agreement. [passage indistinct]

The brother leader of the revolution affirmed that the humiliating 17 May agreement (?was devised) by the United States. It was written by the U.S. Administration in favor of the Zionist-imperialist camp, and consequently the reactionaries did not take any stand against the 17 May agreement. The leader affirmed that the Lebanese Government signed the agreement on the order of the United States.

He expressed great regret over the fact that no statement was made by the Arab governments, which reflected the lowest limit of arabism toward the agreement.

The leader greeted the victory of the Lebanese masses and patriotic forces in abrogating the submissive agreement. He said

that the defeat is a defeat of the Phalangists, the Israelis, the Americans, and the defeatists who wanted to use the 17 May agreement to curse us and the patriotic revolutionary movement in the Arab homeland. But today we are savoring their misfortunes and we challenge those who thought that the 17 May agreement could not be abrogated.

The leader of the revolution announced that the next battle will start with the Zionist enemy, who is occupying Palestine now after the shattering defeat of the Atlantic treaty and the enemy camp in Lebanon, and after Lebanon has been cleansed with blood. He pointed out that Israeli planes made crazy raids in an attempted reaction to the abrogation of the 17 May agreement. He said that despite the Israelis and the United States who made them, we say that these planes cannot be stronger than the U.S. planes that bombed the Druze and the Lebanese national movement in an attempt to destroy our revolution and stop our march toward the sea. Our national forces have reached the sea, and the U.S. troops have escaped to the sea, and this agreement has been burned.

He stressed that a shattering defeat has been inflicted on the enemies by expelling them from Lebanon. They are running away like rats to the sea, taking refuge in the ships. He said that the U.S. soldiers, as a consequence of this defeat, fled before the Druze and the Shi'ites, who are fighting with the rifle.

He asserted that the humiliating 17 May agreement has been burned in front of the U.S. destroyer battleship *New Jersey*, which was used as a challenge by Reagan. He said that Reagan's crooked nose has been rubbed in the dust by the rifle and the popular revolution.

He again stressed that we must get prepared for the next battle with the Zionist enemy in order to expel him from southern Lebanon and liberate Palestine inch by inch, from the river top the sea and from Lebanon to Egypt. He said that the masses of the Arab nation are determined to continue the march until the Zionist camp is destroyed. We say to America that the battle has become overt between us and her and that we have decided to purge our land, either to become martyrs or expel the Zionists and the Americans and the reactionaries from our Arab land.

He said that the United States had gone berserk in the face of the march and cohesion of the women and men of the Druze and Shi'ites with the Palestinian resistence in Lebanon. The brother leader of the revolution stressed that the U.S. battleship *New Jersey* and the F-16 and F-14 planes failed to stop the march of the Druze, the Shi'ites, the Lebanese national forces and Palestinian resistence. He also stressed that whatever the Israelis did and however mad they went, and however much they tried to shell homes, towns and villages to terrorize the Arab nation, the masses of the Arab nation will remain determined to continue the march until they destroy the Zionist camp.

He stressed to the submisive Egyptian ruler and to the rulers of the Arab nations and to the Phalangists who are conspiring with the Zionist enemy, that the Arab nation is stronger than America and the Israelis because it possess the right of self-defense on its own soil.

He said that the guardians of Israel will have to prepare themselves to confront the popular masses in Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon and that they should get ready to confront us.

He added: We will be the first to fight the guardians of Israel in Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt. Their fate will be the same as that of the Phalangists who used to be the guardians of Israel and who prevented the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese patriotic movement.[sentences as received] He affirmed that the abrogation of the 17 May agreement was a blow to the guardians of Israel in Lebanon, and that tomorrow the blow would be dealt to the guardians of Israel. In Jordan and the guardians of Israel in Egypt. [remainder indistinct]

Abu Furaywah Meets Bulgarian Foreign Trade Minister

LD041745 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli 4 Mar (JANA) — Secretary of the General People's Committee for Economic and Light Industries, Musa Abu Furaywah, conferred before noon today in Tripoli with the Bulgarian minister of foreign trade, Khristo Khristov, who is currently on a visit to the Jamahiriyah. At this meeting the discussion dealt with the means for consolidating and developing the cooperation which exists between the two friendly countries in all the fields.

Pro-, Anti-'Arafat Palestinians Quarrel in Algeria

LD022247 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Quarrels have broken out into clashes between those who support and those who oppose 'Arafat and his clique after the PLO office in Algeria became merely an office limited to extending its services to 'Arafat's clique. Reports arriving from Algeria have stated that the organization's office hid the travel documents of those who oppose 'Arafat residing in Algeria and tried to starve them in an attempt to make them submit to 'Arafat's capitulationist course. These reports stress that many of the Palestinians residing in Algeria since they were driven from Beirut repeatedly go to the PLO office demanding to join the Palestinian resistance forces in Lebanon to participate in challenging the Zionist enemy and affirming that their original place is to fight the common enemy and not to stay in places remote from the battle fronts.

JANA: Chadian Force Forms 'Revolutionary Committee'

LD052345 Tripoli JANA in English 1853 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Bardai, Jumada al Ulla 30, March 5, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Having faith in the humane theses of the third universal theory, in implementation of direct people's democracy and people's authority and in confirmation of the dicta "committees everywhere" and "no revolutionaries outside revolutionary committees," the Chadian revolutionary force in the Gourou region met and formed its revolutionary committee.

MOROCCO

Hassan Addresses Nation on Accession Anniversary

LD031652 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1248 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Address to the nation by King Hassan II on the anniversary of accession — live]

[Excerpts] My dear people. Praise be to God. Prayers and peace upon our master, the messenger of God. We occasionally address you in the course of each year on numerous issues of varied importance in relation to circumstances and new implications. Our concern about the economic and social spheres, the productive and [word indistinct] sectors, and maintaining the citizen's purchasing powers will remain a continuing concern. We shall not review in this speech all the forms in which this concern emerged, but will only mention two measures we have taken to correct the state budget and to encourage a sector for which we care greatly. We prefer brevity, and refer those who want detailed statements to our information ministry documents and official letters.

One of these two measures is concerned with the austerity policy which we followed concerning the state budget. We have put pressure on [word indistinct] funds, with both its facets, with the aim of achieving the required balance between income and expenditure. If we had put pressure on the construction budget we have put pressure on [word indistinct] funds, with both its facets, with the aim of achieving the required balance between income and expenditure. If we had put pressure on the construction budget we have revised the list of priorities which had been stipulated in the development plans with consideration to the aims (hoped for). [sentence as heard] We have subjected the selection of projects to specific standards, on which depends whether or not the projects will be maintained, taking into consideration employment, the exploitation of national resources and their development, and improvement of [word indistinct] balance.

As for the second measure, it concerns the world of agriculture. My dear people, you know that agriculture occupies an important position as far as our caring and concern are concerned. You know that the power of nations, particularly developing nations, are measured currently by their ability to provide food for all the citizens. To this aim, the world of agriculture, which enjoys great attention in our development plans, must be alert to the role assigned to it and its participants in the efforts aimed at achieving sufficiency, and consequently independence in the food sector. However, the agricultural sector has been suffering for the past 2 years from grave damage in many parts of our Kingdom due to insufficient rainfall.

In order to lift the burden off the rural population and to restore and stimulate the agricultural sector, which would reflect effectively on employment, internal production, trade balance and state budget, we made a number of decisions aimed at its support and aid. However, it transpired that this support and aid did not lead to all the results hoped for due to the effect of drought, and that the situation necessitated taking long-term measures aimed at aiding farmers to overcome the present difficulties. Therefore, we have decided to exempt agricultural income from taxation and this exemption will be effective until the year 2000. We have decided to exempt agricultural income from taxation and the effectiveness of this exemption will be valid until the year 2000.

King Pardons Prisoners on Anniversary

LD031552 Rabat MAP in English 1233 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Rabat, Mar 3 (MAP) — King Hassan II of Morocco granted free pardon to a number of detainees on the occasion of the feast of the throne commemorating this year the 23rd anniversary of the enthronement of the sovereign.

Thus, 146 detainees will benefit from a remission of the remainder of imprisonment penalty, 7 people from a total remission of imprisonment penalty, 157 detainees from a partial remission of imprisonment penalty, and 4 persons will benefit from the commutation of life-imprisonment penalty to term-imprisonment penalty.

Hassan Views Mideast, Maghreb Issues

PM011722 Paris LE FIGARO MAGAZINE in French 25 Feb-2 Mar 84 pp 62-65

[Interview with King Hassan II by Robert Lacontre in Rabat — date not given]

[Excerpts] *LE FIGARO MAGAZINE*: Sire, how do you explain the Lebanon crisis?

Hassan II: It is not new, Mr Lacontre. Let us go back to its origins. Lebanon was created and in it was placed everything which could not be placed elsewhere. In it were placed Muslims, who are Sunnis and Shi'ites, and Christians, who are Catholics and Maronites. In it were placed Arabs who are Druzes and Shi'ites. All the components of an explosive situation were placed in this Lebanon, which is a small country. An effort was made to have Muslims live with Christians and Jews. I do not say that it is impossible, but the container was too small. It would have been possible to do it in a bigger territory.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: So there is no solution. Syria will annex Lebanon.

Hassan II: There is no question of that. I do not think that is the case, although Damascus continues to say that Lebanon and Syria form one country. Do the Syrians want to become Lebanese? Do you think the Lebanese want to become Syrian? However one thing must be said. Until 1949 the Syrians and Lebanese had the same currency. Those two countries never had ambassadors. Until 1920 Beirut depended on Damascus for its legal system. It is impossible to forget that that happened. What we must do now is try and find a balance in this mixture of religions.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: Do you think this is the end of Al-Jumayyil?

Hassan II: It would be a pity if it were, because I personally think he is, he will be if he is restored to his position, or will have been if he is abandoned, probably one of the greatest Lebanese presidents. He has the advantage of not being a professional politician. He is young. He knows nothing about petty politics. In my view he is extremely pure.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: Is Al-Asad not trying to gloss over his internal difficulties in a foreign adventure?

Hassan II: That is very possible. We were all surprised at the Islamic conference when the Syrian delegate said: "At home in Syria people still dream of the Omayad empire." With regard to the Palestinians we also heard it said that they had greater freedom of movement and choice than the Syrians and that Palestine was part of Syria...

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: Can King Husayn really envisage a federation with the Palestinians?

Hassan II: I think that the King of Jordan and the Palestinians have gone through a terrible crisis of confidence for years, but, with the passage of time, the situation is forcing them to make mutual concessions. Both are now aware that their survival, their survival not as peoples but as states, depends on the creation of a confederation. I personally know that both are equally sincere.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: So you think there is no longer any distrust.

Hassan II: Even if you love each other you are still distrustful until you come before the registrar or Qadi to be married.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: Will Israel ever accept that federation?

Hassan II: Not only have the Arabs allowed many opportunities to slip by over the years, but Israel is now doing the same.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: Do you not think that the Americans are once again showing themselves to be a little naive in this Lebanon crisis? Is their only intention really to find a solution to the Middle East problem?

Hassan II: Yes, I would bet on it. Moreover, contrary to what people may think of President Reagan, he has many more qualities than is generally thought, and above all he is a man who is very constant and very faithful to his friends. He reminds me of Eisenhower during the Suez attack. Moreover you must not think that only the Americans are naive. Many foreign policies bear the stamp of naivety. God has willed that I should be here for 24 years. That has given me time to examine many kaleidoscopes. Ultimately it is impossible to give anybody better marks than the others. I think stupidity is human, as are mistakes and naivety. It is just that they are cyclical and do not always appear in the same geographical location.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: President Mubarak has deliberately chosen to support 'Arafat. What is your view of that?

Hassan II: The law and legality are on 'Arafat's side as regards the PLO's representativeness both abroad and in the occupied territories. Until we have evidence to the contrary he is and will remain our interlocutor. Moreover the Palestinians are going to meet in Algiers in March and we will see who will be chosen to represent the PLO. As for 'Arafat as a man, he is an impulsive but extremely reasonable man. He has one great quality. He is not obstinate. When you suggest something to him he never says no on principle. He is a man of dialogue. That is why I have moved heaven and earth with my friends and with the American Government to ensure that he is not assassinated.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: Let us talk about the Reagan plan again.

Hassan II: I would say the Fes plan too. I think a plan is like an omelette. You take eggs from a hen house. The eggs have no identity. I think there are areas of agreement in all the plans. The Reagan plan is not bad at all. There are many positive points in it. But I am sure that a Reagan-Fes mixture will open the door to a real peace process.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: Do you not think that the Islamic conference and the Arab League are a little old-hat?

Hassan II: The Islamic institution is not old-hat in the least. It was formed in 1969. The Arab League, on the other hand, is completely old-hat. Indeed it was the worst turn the British could have done the Arab world after World War II. The British said to themselves: They will try to reconcile the irreconcilable. At least they will be busy with their problems, their geographical, commercial, economic, and other conflicts and their social disparities. That is also true of the OAU. That is why we have decided to change the Arab League's rules.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: Did you advise that Egypt be brought back into the Arab community?

Hassan II: Nobody advised that. The Africans and Asians adopted a firm attitude at the Islamic conference. For a time I was afraid Casablanca might go down in history as the symbol of a split among the Muslims. "We are Muslims. You are not going to destroy us with your inter-Arab problems." In the end nobody left the conference. I spoke with Murabak. He was happy to return to the Muslim world. When the news was announced, people were kissing each other in the street. But he told me that even if the Arab League asked him to return he would refuse. "I will not set foot in it again," he said.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: Do you not feel that the USSR is much more aggressive in the Middle East at present?

Hassan II: The Russians certainly seem more active. Pascal said: 'The style is the man." Although Andropov was confined to his bed for a long time he was able to give his orders. Now, Andropov's style was the method in which he had specialized.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: Do you think there could be a change with Chernenko?

Hassan II: In any case the KGB will remain a crucial part of the Soviet system. Will it always be predominant in the voice of

that country's political lines? Will Chernenko be just another element? Only the future will tell.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: Some people say that Al-Qadhdhafi is mad. What do you think of his "Green Book"?

Hassan II: President al-Qadhdhafi and I have never discussed his "Green Book" because he knew that I would not agree with him. But Al-Qadhdhafi is not mad in the least.

His inconsistencies sometimes go to extremes. We all live amid contradictions. But you have to be able to control them. Al-Qadhdhafi loses control. In some cases Libya's role is disconcerting. It can go too far. With regard to a number of quesitons, particularly tthe Palestinian question, the question of Arab-Israeli coexistence, Al-Qadhdhafi thinks he alone embodies the truth and has a monopoly of the political and strategic tactics. That has brought him rebuffs from his peers in the West and in the East. Faced with this situation there are only two courses, not three: Either you turn your back on him or you try to discuss with him. Morocco, for its part, did not hesitate when it was necessary to turn its back on him. Nor does it hesitate to try to have a dialogue.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: Is he not cleverly "used" by the Russians"

Hassan II: He claims the reverse is true. He says he is still a Muslim. Thus he does not take orders from Moscow. Nonetheless Libya is at present a vast Soviet arms depot. You will understand that it is difficult for me to use a lie detector on a head of state.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: Does Al-Qadhdhafi really intend to seize Chad?

Hassan II: He has failed to explain his position on this affair. In fact, since World War II and the conquest of Libya by the Italians, that country has lost a number of territories. Libya was a route to Mecca. It is true to say that it has been robbed and had all its Arab and Arab-speaking populations eroded. If I had been Al-Qadhdhafi I would first have demonstrated the close relationship which exists between southern Libya and northern Chad. Unfortunately there is the historical fait accompli. Morocco was also dispossessed to some extent. They are things which cannot be remedied. It is impossible to deal the cards afresh each time. But if he had explained his problem in that way it would have been possible to reach a compromise.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: In short, you defend him?

Hassan II: I do not defend the methods but the underlying case.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: What about terrorism?

Hassan II: He indulges in it. He also armed the Polisario. The question is whether he does it himself or whether he is programmed to do it.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: Morocco has experienced disturbances too. You spoke of foreign interference. By whom? The Algerians?

Hassan II: They fanned the flames. Evidence of that is provided by *VOIX DES PEUPLES*, which is a veritable call to riot. Subversive pamphlets were seized. We must remember the old saying: "If there were no receivers there would be no thieves." Those pamphlets and all that activity were launched from Paris and Brussels. It is extremely dangerous for you too. Look at the events in Tunisia for instance. They bore no comparison with the vents in Morocco. A few days later the French Government sent a telegram to President Bourguiba and the Socialist Party [PS] sent a message of support. The French fleet was cruising off Tunis. In Morocco those events broke out during the Islamic conference. When I tell you that 29 people were killed, I mean precisely that. That is a far cry from the 1,000 deaths in Tunisia. The French press attacked us in an incredible way both on the right and on the left. I thinnk that the French press has rather a fixation. When it is a republic, things are fine. When it is a monarchy things are going badly.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: Is this attitude shared by official circles?

Hassan II: At official level our relations have been excellent since President Mitterrand came to power. I must say that there are no problems at personal level. We sometimes have frank discussions on geopolitical questions, history, and art. But there is the PS! I am not the only one to suffer as a result of that ubiquity or bicephalism. Many African leaders also suffer as a result of it, be it Bongo, Houphouet, or Sekou Toure.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: Let us talk about the Polisario now. What exactly is it?

Hassan II: The other day I met with the Spanish foreign minister who had met with a representative of the Polisario — "the Sahara and Rio de Oro Liberation Movement." The minister told me that his interlocutor could not speak Spanish, only French. I have said 10,000 times that I was prepared to withdraw from the Sahara if a single Spanish soldier was killed by a Polisario bullet. So far nobody has dared take up the challenge. The Polisario is [former Algerian President] Boumediene's creation. God rest his soul. I received the Ethiopian foreign minister 1 month ago since Mengistu is OAU chairman. He wanted me to open a dialogue with that movement's representatives. Why talk with rebels? If I recognize them, why organize a referendum? It is important to know the Polisario leaders' curriculum vitae. They were all born in Morocco. As for the so-called foreign minister, he is a Mauritanian. The whole affair has been trumped up.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: Are they helped by the Russians too?

Hassan II: They are helped by all those who want the 1,000 or so kilometers of the Atlantic which we have recovered, that is the whole problem.

Lamrani Activities in, Return From U.S. Reported

LD031444 Rabat MAP in English 1240 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Casablanca, Mar 3 (MAP) — Moroccan Prime Minister,

Mr Mohamed Karim Lamrani returned here early Saturday from New York after he wound up a four day official visit to the United States at the head of an important delegation. During his stay in Washington, Premier Lamrani was received by President Ronald Reagan and Vice-President George Bush. He also had talks with Secretary of State George Shultz and other top American officials.

Besides the diverse agreements concluded between the United States and Morocco in the economic area, the stay of Mr Lamrani was highlighted by the signing of an important loan agreement amounting to dollar 115 millions granted by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) to the Moroccan "Caisse Nationale de Credit Agricole." 600,000 Moroccan farmers will benefit from this loan on the social plan notably. The loan agreement was signed by Mr Abdellatif Jouahri, Moroccan minister of finance who also met Mr William Brock, an American official in charge of trade exchanges with whom he initialed an agreement on American private investment guarantees in Morocco. This agreement is additional to the one relating to non-double taxation.

The prime minister also met with Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger and had talks with Mr Alden Clausen, president of the World Bank and Mr Jacques de Larosiere, director of the International Monetary Fund.

Also in Washington, the prime minister received ambassadors and diplomatic representatives of Islamic countries to the U.S., with whom he discussed the outcome of the fourth Islamic summit, held in Casablanca last January.

In New York, Mr Lamrani was received by former U.S. President Richard Nixon in his residence.

SUDAN

Further Report on Numayri's National Day Speech

JN031205 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum Mar 3 (SUNA) — The president of the republic, Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, today greeted the nation on the day of national unity.

At a live broadcast address marking the Day of National Unity, the president voiced his idea that today is one of our dearest days in which the revolution laid down the concrete foundation of national unity.

In his address before cheering mass rally at the Friendship Hall here, the president said that the revolution inherited a heavy burden of legacy and a regime dominated by sectarian anarchy and tribal influence. The president said that unity day serves as an example for settling the African internal disputes through peaceful means.

President Numayri added that the May Revolution left behind all the conflicts and differences. He said the May Revolution has proposed a unique African solution for the problem that lasted for seventeen years. He further explained the principles on which the national unity has been based. Cultural diversity, participation in the power, self-governing and decentralization are the bases on which the national unity is founded, Numayri said, adding that the unity is based on the just distribution of the national resources among the sons of the nation and the equality both in the rights and the responsibilities.

The president blasted the attempt mounted by Sudan's foes, who were outraged by its rejection to any type of patronage and [word indistinct] its own trend with independent will and complete sovereignty. The endeavours were pinpointed towards restricting Sudan by impeding its unity through blockage of rebellion and subversion, he said. But Sudanese people who aborted the past bids are capable of thwaring these plots and those in the offing. The task of the new colonial agents, the Marxist-leninists who contradict religions through treachery and sabotage of the country's achievements. [sentence as received]

President Numayri affirmed that the Sudan's problems could only be solved by the Sudanese, who would not tolerate communism and are ready to fight and eliminate [communism].

Furthermore, the president said that we had been accustomed to communism's style and method in blundering out planning for creating the appropriate atmosphere through which they could destroy the most important utilities in a bid to provoke the people against their revolution.

[There is] No excuse or tolerance for those who sold themselves to foreign powers, Numayri said, adding that those individuals should not claim patriotism while they seek the destruction of the national projects and the national unity.

The opposition has full freedom, unless it is backed by foreign powers and unless it becomes the voice of those foreign powers, President Numayri said in his today's speech.

He stated that he would do his utmost to face the disunity voices. The People's Armed Forces are always ready to protect the national unity, he said. We will stick to the principles of the national unity, Numayri affirmed.

The president explained that decentralization arrangements had not breached these principles and that the authority in the South was in the hands of the southerners. Whatsoever the experiment, it is the will of Sudanese and their legal institutions to determine its future, he said.

The president appealed to the armed elements to put down arms and return to their units and villages, stressing that complete amnesty will be applied.

The president vowed the will of the nation will be the upper hand under national unity in which there would be no concession or bargaining.

Sudan will face its tasks with firmness, and ordeals with concrete unity, he said.

Patience does not mean dereliction and the desire for peace does not mean capitulation, Numayri said. There will come a day

when Sudan will trace these foes wherever they go, but nevertheless Sudan (?prefers) the tractor for building [rather] than the cannon, he further affirmed.

He said the development projects are all for the unified Sudan and that Sudan will not concede its unity and stability.

The May Revolution has (?announced) two weeks from its breakout its intention to solve the southern question, he said. He principles of self-government have been based on the characteristics of the Sudanese different regions, he explained.

President Numayri said that there were technical and economic factors that affect the progress of the development projects, affirming that all these projects would be benefited by all Sudanese without discrimination.

President Numayri referred to the enemies' allegations and their attempts to delude the simple people by circulating lies over the Jonglei Project and oil prospecting in Sudan.

Turning to application of Muslim sharia' (rules) in Sudan, the president explained that the Islamic religion, which was the consented approach in the country, is an explicit recognition of the Christian creed. The Islamic approach, combined with recognition of other scripture, books and values and viertues, was accepted by Sudan as a mode of life, he said.

Tracing of the Islamic avenue by Sudan represents a victory for the whole religions, as they agree on good virtues and the welfare of people, he added.

The Islamic avenue is similar to the trend followed by all other religions and does not contradict them, so these creeds are integral to the Islamic approach and would not be an access to discord and disunity in Sudan, the president concluded.

President Numayri said that coexistence among the religions in Sudan would remain the paramount example in tolerance and fraternity.

He voiced that the attempts of linking between the application of Islamic method and subversion in the southern part of Sudan were only desperate attempts. He further explained that the establishment of three regions in southern Sudan came in response to the people's wishes.

Numayri said that the allegations that try to picture what happens in the southern regions as a conflict between the Muslim -north and the Christian south are mere repetitions of what happens in Lebanon and are unbased.

We know who is behind those acts that wreck of the collapse of unity and the revolution of Sudan, he said, explaining that Al-Qadhdhafi is behind them. It was al-Qadhdhafi who claimed that southern Sudan handicaped the the Sudan-libyan unity and that unity between Egypt and Sudan should pass through the exclusion of northern Sudan, Numayri said. This plot against Sudan is one of several other plots undertaken by the colonel in Grenada, Lebanon, Britain and Jordan, he stated.

Energy Minister Accuses Libya, Ethiopia of Sabotage
JN051707 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 5 Mar (SUNA) — Energy and Mining Minister Dr Muhammad Sharif At-Tuhami has announced that Sudan's development and the progress being achieved in the field of oil exploration must be the target of the grudge bearers and enemies. Therefore, he added, the oil exploration sites should be protected in order to ensur ethat work continues.

He indicated that Libya and Ethiopia were behind the recent subversive incidents at some of the oil exploration sites. The minister said this in a lecture he gave this morning to the students of the Numayri Higher Military Academy.

At-Tayyib Meets With Shultz in Washington
JN031803 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1735 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Washington, 3 Mar (SUNA) — First Vice President 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib met with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz here yesterday. During the meeting, they exchanged views on issues related to bilateral relations.

In a statement he made yesterday, John Hughes, official spokesman for the U.S. State Department, asserted that the United States strongly supports Sudan's efforts at finding political solutions to its domestic issues and condemns some foreign forces' attempts to exploit Sudan's internal difficulties for their own purposes. Hughes also affirmed that Major General 'Umar's visit is considered a good opportunity for reaffirming relations of close cooperation between the two countries.

The first vice president left for Washington last Monday with a message for President Ronald Reagan from President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri.

Authorities Ready to Combat Outlaws, Conspiracy
JN051957 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Mar (SUNA) — First Vice President Major General 'Umar Muhammad At-Tayyib has announced that the competent organs have full information about the activities, movements, weapons, training, and plans of the outlaws stationed in Ethiopia. He said that the Sudanese authorities are well aware of the flagrant acts of aggression that our neighbor Ethiopia is carrying out. In a press statement today following his return from the United States, he explained that the operations the outlaws carried out in the past period were due to the Armed Forces very limited operations; this is because large scale operations will harm the citizens. He asserted that the outlaws will no longer be able to carry out any operation.

The first vice president also reaffirmed that the homeland extends its hand to all of its citizens, including the wrongdoers, and said: We granted amnesty following the Bahr al-Ghazal incidents; many people received good treatment, and were not punished. He added that this opportunity is still available to all the outlaws. Those who return will return to their positions, and those who do not will prove their link to the forces of conspiracy.

He added: We have morals and we respect our commitments, even to those who carried arms against us, pointing out that the Communist Party has begun to move and that plots are being concocted and coordinated against the southern and northern sections of the homeland. In his statement, he also said: Some demands were made with the aim of creating problems and instability in order to embark on the so-called political strike. He also said that this is timed with the activities of the so-called liberation army. He also pointed out that the conspiracy is one, despite the difference of the roles — a role in the south and another in the north — and affirmed that the competent organs are watching everything with full awareness.

U.S. Airlift To Help Fight Rebels Reported

JN051238 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1120 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Mar, (SUNA) —First Vice-President Major General 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib announced in press statements today that the U.S. Administration has decided to set up a direct airlift between the United States and Sudan to transport military arms, equipment, and supplies to support Sudan in facing the conspiracies it is subjected to.

Maj. Gen. at-Tayyib added that U.S. President's Special Envoy General Walters will arrive in Khartoum this evening and will meet with President Numayri tomorrow morning to stress the U.S. stand at the side of Sudan, its support for Sudan, and the U.S. Administration's response to President Numayri's message that was delivered to President Reagan by Maj Gen at-Tayyib.

The first vice-president returned to Khartoum this morning after a 6-day visit to the United States where he met with the U.S. vice-president, the secretaries of state and defense as well as a number of U.S. officials.

Numayri Addresses Egyptian Medical Delegation

JN041938 Khartoum Suna in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 4 Mar (SUNA) — President Numayri addressed here today the Egyptian doctors delegation from the University of Alexandria which visited Sudan from 24 February until 4 March. President Numayri greeted the delegation, explaining that the visit is evidece that inegration between Sudan and Egypt is not a slogan on everyone's lips, but a great accomplishment that everybody in the valley witnesses and that the masses in all their walks of life and activities practice. He also said that national unity in Sudan is an extention of the unity of the Nile valley and that national unity in Egypt is a genuine reflection [word indistinct] on the valley's south before its north.

President Numayri also said that Sudan and fraternal Egypt had confronted and defeated the forces of aggression and that Sudan and Egypt had challenged and destroyed attempts at invasion. He also explained that Sudan is a target for conspiracies because it is a gateway to Egypt, and that Egypt is exposed to foreign dangers because Sudan is a gateway to Africa [as received] and an obstacle on the path to superpower ambitions. He added that historically, Egypt and Sudan are key countries in Africa and a gateway to the Arab world. He also said that any hegemony over the two fraternal countries will constitute hegemony over the Arab nation and the African Continent.

President Numayri continued: [Words indistinct] are trying to harm Sudan's unity, and they do not know that the present differs from the past, that small stones will not stop the march, and that history in Sudan and Egypt will witness the destruction of tyranny, the end of aggression, the failure of conspiracy, and the defeat of the mercenaries and agents.

Addressing the Egyptian doctors delegation, he added that despite its vocational appearance, the visit has political implications because political integration is but a result of practical integration, and that there is no use in any slogan unless it is accompanied by steps of implementation.

SUNA Receives Rebels' Statement Listing Enemies

JN041053 Khartoum SUNA in English 0910 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Mar, (SUNA) — The Sudan news agency, SUNA, received a copy of a pamphlet published by a so-called Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement [SPLM] signed at (Itang) by Col. Dr. John Garang de Mabior as provisional chairman of SPLM and commander-in-chief of SPLA, a so-called Sudan Peoples Liberation Army.

The pamphlet defines SPLM as a Marxist-Leninist movement. The Marxist-Leminist movement known as Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement shall be the sole peoples political organisation.....[ellipses as received], the pamphlet read.

The movement listed as its enemies the president of the republic, the vice-president, all regional governors, ministers, other governmental and SSU officials and officers and men of all regular forces.

Any person who falls within the definition of an enemy of the people as detailed in Section 10 above shall be punished with death or with life imprisonment in a labour camp, the pamphlet read. Entitled The Sudan Peoples Revolutionary Laws, SPLM/SPLA punitive provisions, the pamphlet says activities of the SPLA include conventional warefare against the enemy armed forces and guerrilla warfare including sabotage activities aimed at the destruction of any property, means of communications, lines of communications or vital instalations.

The pamphlet says that SPLM sources of revenue include any money, property or equipment donated to the movement by friendly countries and organisations.

TUNISIA

Algerian-Tunisian Party Talks Begin in Tunis

LD052343 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Political talks between the FLN and the Destourian Socialist Party [PSD] began in Tunis this morning under the chairmanship of Mr Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, official in charge of the FLN's permanent secretariat, on the Algerian side and Mr Mongi Kooli, minister delegated to the prime minister and director of the PSD, on the Tunisian side. The major axes of cooperation between the two parties, in accordance with the directives of Presidents Chadli Bendjedid and Habib Bourguiba and the treaty of fraternity and concord of 20 March, 1983, were examined.

It may be noted that before starting the talks Mohamed Cherif Messaadia and Mongi Kooli held a restricted working session in the presence of the two delegations. At the opening of the talks Mr Mongi Kooli stressed that this first meeting between the two countries' parties will not fail to contribute to strengthening the close age-old relations between the FLN and the PSD from the viewpoint of building the Great Maghreb, which represents a sacred objective. As for Mr Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, he stated that the building of the Greater Arab Maghreb can only be achieved through the peoples' will and free decision and democratic institutions, which must ensure the durability of the Maghreb edifice.

WESTERN SAHARA

APS: Ambassadors Present Credentials to SDAR

LD031601 Algiers APS in English 1155 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] SADR (liberated territories), 3/3 (APS) — Ambassadors of Mexico Nicaragua, Cuba and Benin Presented Friday [2 March] at the Presidency of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic, the representative copy [of] their credentials to the Saharan Government. Before this ceremony, the Mexican, Nicaragauan, Cuban and Benin diplomats visited the camp of Moroccan prisoners with whom they had a short talk. The new ambassadors also visited the depot of the Moroccan military equipment collected by the Saharan combatants. They noted the greatest part of the military equipment is of American origin.

KENYA

President Moi: Country's Wealthy Should Be Grateful

EA051247 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1015 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi today called on rich people to be grateful to the government instead of using their wealth to undermine the tranquillity of the country. Addressing a mammoth rally at Kisunu during the official opening of the provincial headquarters for the Ministry of Water Development, the president said the rich amass their wealth because the government creates the atmosphere conducive to economic development.

The president urged Joab Omino, a former permanent secretary in the government, to go into peaceful retirement instead of interfering in the leadership of the union in the sugar industry. He warned workers who are sponsoring their own candidates for the union's leadership that there are very many people who are unemployed who would replace them if they continue sowing seeds of discord in the industry.

President Moi reminded officers from the Department of Income Tax to ensure that rich people in the country pay appropriate tax to the government and strictly guard against tax evasion. On the role of the Lake Basin Development Authority, the president said it should not work in isolation in its plans for water and other development activities. He said the authority should work in close collaboration with other government bodies to avoid duplication of efforts and time.

On the management of national affairs, the president called on all Kenyans to be nationalistic and sacrifice for the welfare of their country. He said all nyayo followers must demonstrate by action that they are prepared at all times to sacrifice for their country by working round the clock instead of depending on the official working hours. The president called on the Ministry of Education to ensure that school inspectors visit schools regularly and report on the performance of all teachers.

SOMALIA

Defense Minister Leads Delegation to Cairo

EA051607 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Challe Lieutenant General Mohamed Ali Samantar, first SDR vice president and defense minister, left the country last night for Cairo leading a large delegation.

Challe Samantar told a SONNA [Somalia News Agency] reporter at the airport that his visit stems from the talks held between Presidents Siad and Mubarak that resolved to send a high-ranking SDR delegation to Egypt at the beginning of March to proceed with items raised on the agenda by the two presidents and to finalize all items discussed. The first SDR vice president, Challe Lt Gen Mohamed Ali Samantar, said other points to be raised with the Egyptian Government will revolve around the strengthening of fraternal relations, and cooperation in the economic, trade, and social spheres.

The delegation led by Challe Mohamed Ali Samantar includes: minister in the Presidency, Colonel Musa Rabileh Got; Navy Commander Rear Admiral Mohamed Umar Usman; Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Agriculture Mohamed Ali Hamud and Mahmud Abdi Nur; the directors general in the Ministries of Higher Education and Culture, Trade, and Livestock Development, and officials from the Defense Ministry.

Refugee Board Denies 300,000 Back in Ethiopia

EA051603 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] A statement issued today by the Somali National Refugee Board has described as a blatant lie the claim from the so-called Abyssinian Rehabilitation Commission that about 300,000 refugees taking shelter in refugee camps in Somalia have returned to Abyssinia.

The Refugee Board emphasizes the fact that not a single refugee in Somalia has returned to Abyssinia. However, there are people who were serving the Abyssinian regime who were forcibly rounded up in different places to give Ethiopia a pretext to appeal to the world for assistance in food, finances, transport, and other facilities.

The statement went on to say that the Abyssinian propaganda seeking international aid is not a new tactic, but what is astonishing is for Abyssinia to claim the return of refugees to her country when it is a known fact that new Abyssinian refugees flee from every corner to the Somali Democratic Republic and other neighboring countries.

The statement said the world is not blind to these habitual Abyssinian tricks to confuse world public opinion and it is not surprising that it should employ these newest tricks in giving figures for refugees.

Rebels Warn Foreign Companies Against Exploration

EA051909 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Somali opposition forces are issuing a serious warning to foreign corporations involved in prospecting for petroleum and minerals in Somalia. The warning comes after the announcement in Mogadishu yesterday that the regime had allowed a French company to begin the exploration of minerals in some parts of the country.

The warning says if that a French company or any other company tries to explore or exploit petroleum, gas, or minerals, it will bear full responsibility for any consequences that may ensue. The Somali opposition forces further remind foreign companies of the fierce fighting being waged to topple the regime of General Siad Barre.

UGANDA

Kenya To Compensate Country for Community Breakup

EA051215 Kampala Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Uganda is to receive more than 1,200 million shillings from Kenya as compensation for assets she lost when the East African community broke up in 1977. The money is to be paid over a period of 8 years with a 7 percent interest per annum payable on the outstanding balance from the date signing a bilateral agreement between the two countries. The agreement to this effect is to be worked out.

This was the result of 3 days of negotiations held in Nairobi to discuss compensation due to Uganda from Kenya following an earlier agreement reached by the heads of state of Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania in Arusha last November regarding the division of assets and liabilities of the defunct East African community. According to a memorandum of understanding signed in Nairobi yesterday at the end of the negotiations, there will be four modes of payment, namely, convertible currency, offsetting of debts Uganda owes Kenya, payment for raw materials and manufactured goods obtained by Uganda from Kenya, and fixed assets acquired by Uganda in Kenya.

The memorandum also stipulates that the exchange rate used in the calculations is that which was obtaining on 30 June 1977 when the community official broke up, namely 8.31542 shillings per U.S. dollar. The press release issued in Nairobi says the talks, which were a continuation of negotiations held in Arusha, Nairobi, and Jinja, were held in a frank and friendly atmosphere which characterizes the relations between Kenya and Uganda.

CAMEROON

Canadian Minister Pledges Increased Development Aid

AB022105 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] The visiting Canadian minister for external relations, the Honorable Jean-Luc Pepin, has been reviewing the current state of trade exchanges between Cameroon and Canada and said the trade imbalance was merely apparent and not real. The minister told a press conference this afternoon that [words indistinct] in the value of import and export between the two countries down the past 3 years and explained the low rate of Canadian import from Cameroon by the channeling through Europe of most exports to Canada. He, however, admitted that the rate of trade exchanges between the two countries remained globally low, hence the constant desire of the Canadian Government to offset the trend through increased development aid.

Answering to a question on the future of the so-called Western Contact Group, especially after the withdrawal of France, the Canadian minister said his country has always respected the major orientations of the United Nations in southern Africa. He was delighted with the recent development in the region following announcement with intent to pull out foreign troops from southern Africa [sentence as heard]. The Canadian minister leaves Cameroon tomorrow at the end of a 3-day official visit during which he met several senior government officials, including the secretary general of the Presidency, and pledged Canadian aid and loans worth some 24 billion CFA francs.

GABON

Bongo Reduces Sentences of Political Prisoners

AB051545 Paris AFP in English 1508 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Libreville, March 5 (AFP) — President Omar Bongo of Gabon today cut three years off the prison sentences of about 20 political prisoners who could be released on the 16th anniversary of the country's only political party, the Gabonese Democratic Party, on March 12, an official said here.

Some 40 opponents to President Bongo were tried in November 1982 on charges of sedition. The court acquitted eight defendants and sentenced thirteen to 20 years of forced labor and the rest to prison terms ranging from 12 years to 18 months with parole.

In March last year, President Bongo cut five years off the prison sentences, leading to the immediate release of seven prisoners.

Mr Bongo's decision today applied to the prisoners originally sentenced to eight year terms. The prisoners will be released next Monday provided that the government has no other charges against them, the official said.

Most Gabonese dissidents are affiliated with the banned Movement of National Recovery, which was founded in 1981 and promotes multiparty political competition.

The sedition trial opened 11 months after a major demonstration against the Bongo regime at the Libreville bus station in December 1981.

A spate of anti-government strikes by students and lecturers at Libreville University also broke out at that time, leading to numerous arrests.

Equatorial Guinea Foreign Minister Meets With Bongo

AB020810 Libreville Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Equatorial Guinean Foreign Minister Marcelino Nguema, who arrived in our capital 2 days ago, was granted audience yesterday by President Omat Bongo at the Renovation Palace. Mr Nguema handed to the head of state a message from his Equatorial Guinean counterpart, Obiang Nguema Mbasogo.

Mr Nguema conveyed to the Gabonese head of state the gratitude of the Equatorial Guinean people for the support given by the Gabonese Government, especially by President Bongo, on the occasion of Equatorial Guinea's admission into the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa.

In reply to a question on the relations between Malabo and Madrid, the Equatorial Guinean foreign minister said those relations are constant. On Mauritania's recognition of the SDAR, Marcelino Nguema said it was a sovereign decision by Mauritania. He pointed out, however, that his country's position had not changed. It is only through a referendum that the Saharan people will achieve self-determination, he said.

GHANA

Kampuchean Foreign Minister Hun Sen Arrives in Accra

AB051208 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] A five-man delegation from the People's Republic of Kampuchea, led by its foreign minister, Mr Hun Sen, arrived in Accra yesterday on a friendly visit to Ghana. The delegation was met at the airport by the acting secretary for foreign affairs, Mr Kofi Djin.

Speaking soon after their arrival, Mr Hun Sen said he is glad that the visit coincides with the 27th anniversary of Ghana's independence and expressed the warm wishes of his country to the government and people of Ghana.

The Kampuchean minister hoped the visit would strengthen relations between Ghana and his country. He thanked Ghanaians for their support during Kampuchea's struggle.

On his part, Mr Kofi Djin hoped the visit would enable the delegation to have fruitful discussions with the government. He appealed to the visitors to feel at home since they are among their own friends.

Gen Quainoo Returns From Visit to Nicaragua, Cuba

AB051215 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] The force commander, General Arnold Quainoo, and Mr Justice D.S. Annon returned to Accra yesterday after representing Ghana at the 50th anniversary of the death of Mr Augustus Sandino, founder of the Sandinista movement in Nicaragua. The third member of the delegation, Mr Kojo Tsikata, is due to arrive back in Ghana in a few days.

In the capital Managua, the delegation had talks with the members of the Nicaraguan Government and attended a massive rally in commemoration of Sandino's death. They also visited areas outside Managua and saw militia activities. The delegation also made a brief visit to Cuba and had discussions in Havana, and also visited the Ghanaian children at school on the Isle of Youth.

Envoy Brings USSR Donation to Youth Commission

AB030825 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] The Soviet ambassador to Ghana, Mr Anatoliy Ivantsov, has called on Ghanaian youth to be prepared to work hard to make Ghana a prosperous nation. The envoy said by so doing they would be offering good assistance to the government's policies, which aim at making life enjoyable for all.

Mr Ivantsov was presenting a number of items to the members of the National Youth Organizing Commission, NYOC, in Accra on behalf of the Committee of Youth Organizations of the Soviet Union. The goods, worth about 1.5 million cedis, include 16 buses, 4 motorcycles, 2 duplicating machines, 4 typewriters, and 1 minibus. The ambassador described the gift as a token of the long-standing friendship existing between the youths of Ghana and the Soviet Union. The secretary to the Provisional National Defense Council, Mr Ato Dadzie, received the gift. He observed that there is a great potential in the youth, whose talents should be tapped for the development of the nation. The duty of every nation should therefore be to see that its youth grow well. He gave the assurance that the gift would be put to good use in furtherance of the objectives of the NYOC.

GUINEA

Sekou Toure Calls on Iran To Accept Cease-Fire

AB051257 Paris AFP in French 1214 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Dakar, 5 Mar (AFP) — Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure has asked the Imam Khomeyni to "accept an immediate cease-fire" and to stop the war between Iran and Iraq, in a message addressed to the leader of the Iranian Islamic revolution and broadcast on Monday by Radio Conakry monitored in Dakar. The Guinean head of state added that the Peace Committee of the Islamic Conference Organization — of which he is chairman — is ready to go to Teheran "without delay in order to find a just solution that would honor the entire Islamic community."

MALI

ANC, SWAPO Delegations Arrive in Bamako 5 Mar

AB052150 Bamako Domestic Service in French 2015 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Excerpt] ANC and SWAPO delegations arrived in Bamako this afternoon. They were met on arrival at the Bamako-Senou Airport by Tchamba Coulidaly, judicial adviser at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, accompanied by representatives of the youth wing of the Malian People's Democratic Union [UNJM] and of the National Union of Malian Women [UNFM]. The two delegations, which will spend 1 week in Mali, will hold daily discussions with the Central Executive Bureau's secretary for external relations, as well as with the minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation. The ANC and SWAPO delegations will also hold working sessions with UNJM and UNFM delegations, as well as with the National Anti-Apartheid Committee. Press conferences and debates will be held during the visit, which ends on Monday.

NIGERIA

Buhari Comments on Maitatsine Riots in Yola

AB051750 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Religious leaders throughout the country have been urged to always speak the truth to their followers.

The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, made the plea today at Dodan Barracks when he granted audience to a delegation of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs. The head of state said that the problems in Nigeria stemmed from the failure of leaders to tell Nigerians the truth. Gen Buhari implored the religious leaders to work for the success of efforts to develop the nation, and stressed that no government succeeded without the support of religious leaders.

Speaking on the Maitatsine riots in Yola, the head of state said that the uprising had been crushed by the Army and added that the losses in terms of human and material resources were being compiled. On the trial of political detainees, the head of state remarked that their trial will be carried out by responsible persons. He said that the trial will be based on what was found out about them and not on what was heard.

The leader of the delegation, who is also the shehu of Borno, Alhaji Mustafa Uma el-Kanani, had earlier pledged the support of the council to the Federal Military Government. He called on the government to establish adequate and efficient machinery for monitoring religious activities in the country.

The council restated its support for the continuation of religious liaison offices established by the ousted regime. It also spoke on the need to review the nations educational system so that adequate arrangements could be made for religious practices.

Buhari Praises Polisario Position on OAU Meeting

AB060842 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] The decision of the Polisario Front not to attend the OAU ministerial meeting has been described as a good gesture. This was the view of the head of state, Major General Buhari, when he received a special message from President Khouna Ould Haydala of Mauritania at Dodan Barracks. Maj Gen Buhari stressed that Nigeria believed in self-determination for the people of Western Sahara.

Ghanaian Delegation Delivers Rawlings Message

AB060845 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] A Ghanaian delegation led by the coordinating secretary of the Provisional National Defense Council, Captain [title as heard] P.V. Obeng, called on the head of state today. The delegation arrived in Nigeria yesterday with a special message from the Ghanaian head of state, Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, to Major General Buhari.

Nigerians in UK Assail Press Reports on Dikko

AB021730 Lagos NAN in English 1633 GMT 2 Mar 84

[By Rowland Nwachukwu]

[Text] London, March 2 (NAN) — Nigerians in the UK have condemned a section of the British media for giving undue publicity to wanted ex-Minister Umaru Dikko and other former Nigerian politicians now wandering abroad as fugitives.

Reacting to a television interview in London last month in which Mr Dikko made known his opposition to the Federal Military Government [FMG], the northeast England branch of the Nigeria National Union in the UK said that the sentiments expressed by the former transport minister were totally distasteful. The ex-minister is described by the British media as a billionaire and Nigeria's most wanted politician.

The union said in a statement made available today to the London correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that Mr Dikko's view were unpopular and that they must be treated with the scorn they deserved. According to the union, Nigerians preferred the present military administration to the last civilian rule which, it said, did not only "blatantly rape democracy, but was unable to tackle the problems of Nigeria." It said that there was abundant positive news about Nigeria which the British media never reported, and that giving television time to fugitives like Mr Umaru Dikko to voice his treason was sad.

The union urged the fleeing ex-minister to return home to clear his name, rather than taking out futile newspaper advertisements and making ineffective television appearances in Britain. "We would like to warn that Nigerians can no longer be taken for granted by him or others like him," the union said in the statement signed by its president, Mr Charles Okuofu. It declared its unflinching support and confidence in the military government of Maj Gen Muhammadu Buhari.

National Identity Cards To Be Introduced Soon

AB021740 Lagos NAN in English 1631 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Sokoto, March 2 (NAN) — The internal affairs minister, Brig Muhammadu Magoro, said on Wednesday that necessary equipment had been ordered for the production of national identity cards. He said in a television programme in Sokoto that the implementation of the programme would begin this year. Brig Magoro said that officers involved in the projects would soon begin a public enlightenment campaign to let the people know the usefulness of the programme.

The minister said that the Federal Military Government would introduce passes to citizens in border towns who want to visit their relations in neighbouring countries. He said that the issuance of such passes would initially be by local government secretaries. On the influx of illegal immigrants into the country, the minister said that employers of illegal immigrants would be punished.

SENEGAL

Senegambia Confederal Council Assesses Integration

AB022230 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The Confederal Council of Ministers of the Senegambia Confederation met this morning at 1000 at the Palace of the

Republic under the chairmanship of Abdou Diouf, president of the Confederation.

At the opening ceremony of the fourth session of the Confederal Council of Ministers of Senegambia, the president of the Confederation stressed the importance he attaches to this executive organ. The president of the Confederation recalled the objectives of the pact establishing the Senegambia Confederation and expressed satisfaction with the achievements so far. According to Djibo Ka, confederal minister of information and telecommunications, the president of the confederation also stressed the need to do everything to achieve monetary and economic integration, which is one of the major targets of the Senegambia Confederation. To this end, the president of the Confederation expressed satisfaction with the similarity of views existing between him and the vice president of the Confederation and president of the Republic of the Gambia. Finally, the president of the Confederation ordered that efforts be intensified at the appropriate levels in order to enable the Senegambia Confederation to achieve substantial progress toward the attainment of a monetary and economic union. For his part, the vice president of the Confederation shared the views of the confederal president, in particular concerning economic and monetary integration, in conformity with provisions of the confederal pact.

The vice president also stressed the common political desire of the two confederal states to achieve this goal. To this end, he expressed his satisfaction with the meetings held in Banjul between competent ministers of the two states and encouraged them to continue in this direction.

The council later heard several reports. The confederal minister of external affairs presented a report on the coordination of foreign policies. To this end, the Council of Ministers noted with satisfaction that the coordination of the foreign policies of the two confederal states was going on harmoniously and in line with the expected integration. He urged that more efforts be made in this direction.

The confederal minister of defense presented a report on the prospects for the integration of the confederal armed forces. The Council of Ministers endorsed all the proposals made by the confederal minister of defense and expressed satisfaction with the integration of the armed forces of the two confederal states. To this end, the president of the Confederation gave precise instructions to the confederal minister of defense concerning the rapid implementation of these proposals.

The confederal minister of security reported on the implementation of provisions of the protocol related to security. To this end, the council endorsed the program mapped out and expressed satisfaction with the achievements so far made.

The last recommendation advanced by the confederal minister of finance concerned the measures taken for the implementation of the confederal budget. The Council of Ministers endorsed the proposals made to this effect by the confederal minister of finance.

The next meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Senegambian Confederation will take place on 3 May 1984 in Dakar.

Gambia's Jawara Assesses Meeting

AB022231 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] The Senegambia Confederation is an irreversible reality. The Confederal Council of Ministers meeting, which took place this morning under the chairmanship of Abdou Diouf, president of the confederation, has again demonstrated this reality. Both sides stressed their firm desire to achive the economic and monetary union of the two countries. It is in line with this objective that the management of the ferryboat at (Farasenya) will be given to a confederal company. The vice president of the Senegambia Confederation expressed satisfaction with the assistance given to the Gambia by the Senegalese radio and television service as well as the role it played in the realization of this integration.

Before his departure from Dakar this afternoon, President Dawda Jawara, vice president of the confederation, expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the Confederal Council of Ministers meeting:

[Begin Jawara recording in English fading into French translation] This fourth meeting of the Confederal Council of Ministers was held in a very good atmosphere. We examined issues related to monetary and economic integration, as we did during our previous meetings. Before this meeting, the Gambian finance minister, who is also the confederal finance minister, and the Senegalese minister of economy met in Banjul and defined a new method of work on these issues. Their recommendations were discussed and endorsed at our meeting. Henceforth, this procedural method will be put into operation. [end recording]

UPPER VOLTA

Trial of Third Republic Officials Begins 3 March

AB040945 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Hearings started yesterday at the People's Hall and the courthouse in Ouagadougou, where many former ministers of the Third Republic and of the Military Committee of Recovery for National Progress [CMRPN] stood trial on various charges such as embezzlement, misuse of state property, illegal enrichment, and tax evasion.

Standing trial at the People's Hall are Harouna Traore, former minister of higher education and scientific research of the Third Republic; N. Francois Kabore, former minister of labor and Civil Service in the Third Republic; Mrs Fatimata Traore nee Sigui, former minister of social affairs of the Third Republic; Edouard Tani, former minister of information of the Third Republic; Drammane Sanon, former minister of youth and sports of the Third Republic; Konate Domba, former minister of national education of the Third Republic; Albert Ouedraogo Patoin, former minister of education of the CMRPN, and Faustin Sib Sie, former minister of higher education and scientific research of the CMRPN.

Three former ministers of the CMRPN are standing trial at the Courthouse: They are Mrs Marie Madeleine Kone, former minister of social affairs; Adamou Ouedraogo, former secretary of state at the Presidency in charge of information, and Sylvestre Bangre Ouedraogo of environment and tourism.

Hearing resumes this morning at the People's Hall at 0800 and at the Courthouse at 0900. Let us point out, however, that at the courthouse, two of the accused, Adamou Ouedraogo and Sylvestre Bangre Ouedraogo, already spoke yesterday in their own defense. The verdict in their cases is very likely to be passed today.

Tribunal Sentences CMRPN Officials

AB051218 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The Revolutionary People's Tribunal which sat on Saturday and Sunday at the Palace of Justice yesterday handed down its verdict in the cases of Adamou Ouedraogo, Sylvestre Bangre Ouedraogo, Christophe Ouedraogo, and Marie Madeleine Kone, all members of the Military Committee of Recovery for National Progress [CMRPN] government. Listen to Comrade (Alidou Ouedraogo), chairman of the tribunal, as he reads the judgement:

[Begin recording] The tribunal acquits Sylvestre Bangre Ouedraogo of the charges of illegally amassing wealth. Marie Madeleine Kone is also acquitted of the same charge. However, Marie Madeleine Kone is fined 176,000 francs to be paid to the Upper Voltan state. The tribunal sentences Adamou Ouedraogo to a fine of 2,015,250 francs representating customs duties on furniture, and a fine of 15 million francs for illegally amassing wealth. He is also given a 3-month suspended jail sentence. It also decides that his property equivalent to the above sums should be confiscated. [end recording]

CNR Formally Recognizes, 'Actively Supports' SDAR

AB051850 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Our country yesterday decided to recognize the SDAR. In fact, in a statement read by the minister of information, Comrade Adama Toure, the CNR [National Council of the Revolution] and its revolutionary government have decided to actively support the SDAR so that it can recover its sovereignty. Let us listen to the minister of information as he gives us more details:

[Begin Toure recording] Statement on Western Sahara: The heroic and organized struggle of the Saharan people for their independence, their freedom, and their dignity is almost 26 years old. It was in 1958 that the French, Moroccan, and Spanish armies jointly organized the repression against the patriotic struggle of the Saharan people in order to suppress the early revolutionary hotbeds in Western Sahara. This barbaric intervention of the colonial troops fell far short of neutralizing the resistance of the Saharan people in the face of imperialist domination. On the contrary, it spurred them and resulted in the founding, in 1967, of their combatant vanguard movement, the Polisario, which launched the armed struggle in May 1973. In the face of victories of the Saharan people over foreign domination, the Spanish colonialists, despite all the resolutions adopted by the United Nations on the right of the people to self-determination and national independence, concluded a secret agreement with, in particular, the Moroccan king to replace Spanish colonialism by Moroccan colonialism. But the Saharan people, under the leadership of the Polisario, intensified the armed struggle to reject this new colonialist tutelage, liberated more than half of their national territory, and founded the SDAR. For more than 10 years now, the OAU has been informed about the preoccupying problem of the Western Sahara which, in a dramatic manner, brings back the problem of the liberation of African people under colonial domination. In June 1983, the conference of heads of state and governments of the OAU, at a meeting in Addis Ababa, in the presence of representatives of the Moroccan king, unanimously adopted Resolution AHG-104-19, in which the OAU urged the two sides in the conflict — that is, the king of Morocco and the Polisario — to, and I quote, undertake direct negotiations to achieve a ceasefire aimed at creating the necessary conditions for holding a peaceful and just referendum for self-determination for the Western Saharan people. Unquote.

In its Resolution 38-40 of 7 December 1983, the UN General Assembly expressed satisfaction with and noted this important OAU resolution. At this same General Assembly, the king of Morocco made a solemn statement in which he committed himself to implementing the OAU resolution without delay; however, almost at the same time, and very recently, representatives of the Moroccan king refused to sit at the same table with representatives of the Saharan people during meetings of the OAU Implementation Committee set up by the OAU to hold direct negotiations as stipulated by the OAU resolution. Today, it is evident to the people of the world and to African and international opinion that the major obstacle for a just solution to the burning Western Sahara question is the obstinate opposition of the Moroccan side. The CNR and the Upper Voltan revolutionary government, referring to the principles of the UN Charter and to Resolution 15-14-15 of 14 December 1960 of the UN General Assembly on the independence of peoples and countries under colonization, and faithful to their policies of support for and solidarity with people struggling for their freedom, reaffirm the inalienable right of the Saharan people for self-determination and independence. They note that since they launched the armed struggle 10 years ago, the Saharan people have clearly and massively shed their blood, which is the supreme sacrifice and the perfect expression of the determination of a people to defend their independence and their freedom.

Consequently, taking into account the enormous sacrifices made by the Saharan people for their independence under the just leadership of the Polisario Front, convinced that the just solution to the Western Sahara problem is through the recognition of the right of the Saharan people to independence on the national territory as derived from colonization, the CNR and the Upper Voltan revolutionary government, have today, 4 March 1984, made the sovereign decision to recognize the SDAR and to give it their active support so that it enjoys all the rights attached to independence and national sovereignty. The fatherland or death, we will win. [end recording]

Commentary on Recognition Decision

AB052205 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Upper Volta has officially recognized the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic. Here is a commentary by the UPPER VOLTAN PRESS AGENCY [AVP] on the event. The title of the commentary is: "This is Diplomacy."

The AVP writes that the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] and the Government of the Republic of Upper Volta have just recognized the SDAR. Having learned their lessons from the Moroccan monarchy's policy of absenting itself from meetings, hide and seek tactics, and failure to honor promises up to now, the CNR, the government, and the people have made a courageous and unequivocal decision. Our counterpart, AVP, thinks this a logical conclusion to the diplomatic policy that has been adopted by our country since 4 August 1983, a policy of action without complex, of telling the truth fearlessly, and of taking the right action at all times. The diplomatic policy of Upper Volta is to stop being sycophantic towards certain big or small powers that buy our silence or the artistic key of opposition to major African problems for a few cents or crumbs.

With regard to the SDAR in particular, the AVP goes on to say, no one could precisely tell what our country's stand was on the problem under the previous regime. We would merely make empty statements on the self-determination rights of the Saharan people, statements that were vague enough not to antagonize any camp. In addition, the AVP goes on to say, we knew that there was pressure from certain so-called friendly countries that did not hesitate to put the financing of some projects at stake. Still, with regard to this problem, cooperation in the field of military training was secretly spoken of; that is, the training of Upper Voltan student officers in Morocco, as well as economic cooperation and so on. The rule was not to take a stand that would worry Morocco and its proteges, because, according to the AVP, the SDAR problem, which is a problem of decolonization, is also and especially a case of geopolitical strategy, an example of the imperialist desire to stifle or to prevent the proliferation of progressive regimes on the continent.

If the Moroccan regime were in the progressive camp and the Polisario were a pupper movement like the UNITA in Angola, the AVP goes on to say, obviously the present protectors of Rabat, who are champions in the policy of divide and rule, would have shifted all their weight onto the scales to promote the SDAR's independence, whose huge mineral resources it would then take for itself — phosphates, for instance.

As this is not the case, our counterpart goes on, one prefers allowing the Moroccan regime, which is a faithful ally, to govern this territory and its people rather than running the risk of seeing the SDAR joining the camp of the African progressive countries; that is, the Soviet camp. That is the analysis of Rabat's protectors.

Another of the shock arguments is to subtly threaten the opponents. Previous Upper Voltan Governments were careful not to break this rule by not even daring to condemn the Moroccan regime for blatantly refusing to honor its commitments. The CNR and the government have just said no to this policy of silence, even when we have something to say, the AVP concludes. It is an honor for the entire Upper Voltan people. No more empty-stomach diplomacy!

ANGOLA

UNITA Claims Bomb Attacks Kill Cubans in Huambo

PA051548 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0949 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Lisbon, 5 Mar (EFE) — The rebel movement UNITA announced today in Lisbon that 16 Cubans and 18 Angolan military men died during the explosion of 5 bombs in the city of Huambo, in central Angola, between 10 and 13 February 1984.

According to UNITA, one of the bombs exploded in a bakery shop for Cubans, killing four people and injuring several others. Another bomb reportedly went off in a bar where Cubans and Soviets usually go for drinks, killing 12 Cubans.

Jonas Savimbi's movement also claimed that two bombs exploded in the railroad workshops in Benguela, killing 18 soldiers and causing substantial material damage.

Finally, another bomb exploded in the electrical plant in Huambo, Angola's second leading city, located 500 km south of Luanda. According to UNITA, the plant was rendered totally useless.

The rebels also claimed credit for the death of 173 other Angolan and Cuban troops and for the destruction of 24 vehicles during clashes that occurred in February in several parts of the country. For its part, according to the UNITA communique, 27 UNITA men died, 60 were wounded, and several are missing.

UNITA Warns Foreign 'Mercenaries' To Leave Country

MB051545 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] The great natural resources of our country have always attracted the uncontrolled greed of internationalist vagabonds who are relentlessly exploiting the resources of other countries in the world. In Angola there are, among many other resources, diamonds which are found in Lunda Province. Thus foreign vagrants of various nationalities and international traffickers in diamonds have illegally taken over our country's resources in that province.

The advance of UNITA forces into diamond-rich Lunda Province is a response to an imperative need to stop the exploitation of our people's diamonds by mercenaries who have come to our country in search of riches. Among the actions carried out by UNITA forces in the diamond-rich area of Lunda, we point out the action carried out at dawn on 23 February 1984, namely the seizing of the Kafunfo enemy position, which has already been reported. We recall that, aside from the 14 members of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola who were captured and the 340 trucks of the diamond company which were destroyed, 77 foreign technicians were captured, including 16 Britons, 15 Filipinos, and 45 Portuguese, as has been reported in the UNITA Central Committee communique, which concluded by noting that, of the captured foreigners, it can only guarantee the unconditional release of the Portuguese nationals.

The Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola are pursuing operations in the diamond-rich area of Lunda to halt the exploitation of diamonds by the mercenaries who are illegally grabbing our people's wealth. As for the foreigners who persist in staying in war zones, we hope that the capture of 77 foreign technicians at Kafunfo will serve as a warning, because they will pay dearly for their reluctance if they are taken prisoner.

Once again we repeat the appeal to all foreigners who are working at any level in conjunction with the illegitimate and minority MPLA regime to immediately withdraw, as there is no security because of the civil war prevailing in our country. The struggle will triumph. United we shall win.

Victories Over FAPLA Depicted

MB031119 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Communique issued by the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola on 17 February]

[Text] Cuanza Norte Province: On 10 February, an attack against a People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] group in the (Angondon) commune [words indistinct] were annihilated. A total of 23 FAPLA members were killed and many wounded as a result of the action. Four vehicles and one tractor were destroyed.

Cuanza Sul Province: [words indistinct] anti-aircraft gun shot down an AN-12 cargo airplane, registration No (DCCB)/11988, piloted by Soviets [words indistinct]. On the same day, the enemy commune of Munenga, 30 km west of Calulo, was taken by assault, killing 56, including Cubans and FAPLA and People's Defense Organization [words indistinct].

Huambo Province: On 10 February, a bomb exploded at a Cuban bakery located at [words indistinct] causing the death of four Cubans and wounding several others. On 11 February, a bomb exploded in the (Himalawya) bar in the city of Huambo. The bar is frequented by Cubans and Soviets [words indistinct]. On the same date, two bombs exploded in the same city, namely at 5 October Street and Benguela Railroad general workshops respectively, causing much material damage and the death of 19 FAPLA soldiers who guarded these installations. On 21 February in Benfica suburbs, Huanbo, a team of young women placed an explosive device in the electrical power station which supplied several parts of Huambo, including the industrial area. The explosion caused the total destruction of this electrical facility and other materiel damage. On 20 February, a team sabotaged the water pipes of the Benguela Railroad general workshops in Huambo, thus paralyzing the water supply.

Moxico Province: On 14 February, FAPLA's 21st Brigade battalion was completely annihilated as it tried to advance toward Luav [words indistinct]. The attack caused the death of 64 FAPLA members and 1 Cuban, who served as the batallion adviser, while the rest fled.

Bie Province: On 16 February, the Caiuera commune, 30 km north of Nova Sintra, was attacked. The enemy suffered the loss of 30 FAPLA members and several were wounded. A total of 12 Ural, Ifa, Star, and Gaz-66 vehicles were destroyed. The death of four Cubans was also confirmed. During this period, the following results were obtained: 170 [words indistinct] killed, (?200) Cubans killed, and 19 FAPLA members captured. 11,100 civilians were freed, 1 tank was destroyed, and 223 weapons were captured. On UNITA's side, we have suffered 27 dead, 60 wounded, and 8 soldiers are missing.

The struggle will triumph. United we shall win.

UNITA central base on 17 February 1984, the year of the Anti-Cuban Patriotic Front.

[Signed] Brigadier Demostenes Amos Chilingutila, chief of General Staff.

Cubans Routed at Kafunfo

MB021010 (Clandestine) Voice of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] The Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FALA] routed the Cuban mercenary ragtag soldiers and their FAPLA accomplices at Kafunfo. The attack on the enemy position at Kafunfo, in the Lunda diamond area, fits into the strategy devised by Comrade President Savimbi that was made public in his own voice on the occasion of the message to the nation at the beginning of 1984, year of the Anti-Cuban Patriotic Front.

BOTSWANA

Tanzania Envoy Delivers Nyerere Message to Masire

MB060636 Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 16 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Gaborone, February 15 — The president, Dr Q.K.J. Masire, yesterday received a special envoy from the Republic of Tanzania who delivered a message from President Julius Nyerere, a press release from the Department of External Affairs has disclosed.

The release states that the two heads of state have in the past sent envoys to each other whenever it was necessary to share ideas on matters of bilateral and regional interest.

The release further stated that the special envoy was Mr Kingunge Ngombale-Mwiru, head of the Department of Ideology, Political Education and Training of the Secretariat of the National Executive Committtee and member of the central committee of the ruling party in Tanzania, Chama Cha Mapinduzi. He was accompanied by Mr Saleh Boy Tambwe, high commissioner of Tanzania to Botswana resident in Zambia, the release added.

It further stated that Mr Ngombale-Mwiru leaves Gaborone today.

MOZAMBIQUE

Council of Ministers Approves RSA Treaty Terms

MB060710 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0430 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] The Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Mozambique yesterday held an enlarged session with the National Security Council, state secretaries, and senior cadres of defense and security forces, as well as officials of the state apparatus.

The meeting, which was attended by members of the Political Bureau, the Central Committee, and the Permanent Commission of the People's Assembly, unanimously agreed with the terms of the text of the nonaggression and good-neighborliness pact approved by the Mozambique and South African delegations at the talks on 2 and 3 March in Cape Town. According to a government spokesman, during the session our delegation gave a detailed report on the talks, particularly the meeting at the weekend.

The meeting approved a report and congratulated the delegation on the work it did. It also hailed the constructive spirit demonstrated by the two delegations, which has led to the achievement of these positive results.

The Council of Ministers, according to the same government spokesman, unanimously hailed this great victory for peace, stability, good neighborliness, and progress.

It is worth recalling that a week ago, also at an enlarged session, the Mozambique Government approved the principles of the proposal for the pact which our delegation submitted to the talks in Cape Town.

RSA 'Coexistence' Moves Examined

MB051405 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1100 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Commentary by AIM journalist Carlos Cardoso in Cape Town on 3 March 1984 — recorded]

[Text] The nonaggression and good-neighborliness agreement between Mozambique and South Africa, which is to be signed shortly, will no doubt be seen in Maputo as the culmination of the policy of coexistence outlined in the Constitution. However, in South Africa a number of people will analyze the agreement in light of a policy which was tried 9 years ago by then prime minister, John Balthazar Vorster. The Vorster-Van den Bergh alliance did not last long. In the 1974-75 period the former Bureau of State Security chief managed to sabotage an attempted invasion of Mozambique orchestrated by the Botha-Malan duet. However, this was his last contribution to Vorster's detente policy. Through such a policy, he wanted to achieve what he failed to achieve earlier when he gave military support to the Portuguese colonial army in Mozambique and Angola. In the following 3 years, South Africa was to experience in the corridors of power the Botha-Malan blow against Vorster and Van den

Bergh. In other words, the party and security apparatus represented by Vorster and Van den Bergh were to lose the race in favor of the military, who in 1975 had already invaded Angola while Vorster was having talks with a number of Africa capitals. Vorster used to say one thing — and I think he believed in what he was saying — but the military would do something different.

During last night's press conference at the end of the meeting between the delegations from Mozambique and South Africa, I asked South African Foreign Minister Roelof Botha: Now that the agreement is about to be concluded, does it not remind you of John Vorster and his policy? Roelof Botha did not give an immediate answer. For about 5 seconds he had a vacant look, perhaps recalling old memories, and he ended up diplomatically answering what had been implied in the question. What we are doing, he said, is the continuation of the policy for peace of the successive South African prime ministers. The truth, however, was and is a different matter.

During the 8 years of armed regional destabilization, the Botha-Malan military option did not strengthen the regime as a whole, but weakened it internally, and externally. The country's economy reached a crisis due to a drop in exports. The war effort, which involved about 1 billion dollars per year in Namibia and Angola, seriously aggravated the crisis. Moreover, until 1983 the South African military strategy in Angola was aimed at forcing a compromise between the MPLA and UNITA. On the eastern front it was aimed at either causing a structual change in Mozambique, a coup or a compromise between banditry and Frelimo. Through its military option South Africa has failed to impose structural changes either on the western or eastern fronts. In other words, the strategic objective of the military option has failed. It was therefore necessary to follow a different policy, that is, an attempt at a policy of coexistence. It is at this point that the more enlightened people here in South Africa recall the attempt made by Vorster in the 1974-75 period.

There is another element which is extremely important to the current analyses. Here in South Africa people are asking: What happened in southern Angola during the last 2 months of 1983? People ask why South Africa, which is used to put out a propaganda which spoke of victory after victory, suddenly proposed a withdrawal from southern Angola? The reality is that in Angola the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA], aided by the Cuban troops, were then much stronger than before. The Soviet military equipment, which finally arrived in Luanda in about September, strengthened FAPLA's firepower. It is obvious that the Angolans, while realizing that in view of the war they could not embark in a process of economic development — which they tried throughout the years — had to go for total war. This implied the deployment of all their firepower — now much stronger than before — in the Cunene territory, which was occupied by the South African troops. For Pieter Botha this is an extemely violent move to make. He could lose between 3,000 and 4,000 white South African soldiers, which could result in the end of his own regime. Therefore, the talks with Mozambique and Angola are like going back 8 years in history, when John Vorster was prime minister at a time when he only had party power and not the military power, and was unable to push forward a policy of detente. Moreover, the military option did not stop history, nor did it make history repeat itself. It failed to push Frelimo and the MPLA backward. It ended up strengthening both countries to the east and the west.

A third point to remember is that Herman Toivo, one of SWAPO's founding members in the sixties, was released this week. This means that the Pieter Botha government is willing to embark on the implementation of the UN Resolution 435. Therefore, the overall conclusion to make is that within the regime its representatives and leaders are now certainly looking at the mirror of history with a certain dose of self-criticism because, as stated by a South African analyst here, white South Africa seems to have lost 8 years of its life rather than follow the former policy which could lead the regime to certain credibility. They opted for a military option which hurt the regime's credibility, which is already extremely weak due to the apartheid policy in the country.

France's Penne Arrives in Maputo, Met by Veloso

MB060921 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Guy Penne, the French president's adviser on African affairs, arrived in Maputo last night for talks with the Mozambique authorities. Guy Penne is bringing a message from head of state Francois Mitterand to Field Marshal Samora Machel, his Mozambique counterpart.

On arrival, the Elysee envoy was welcomed by Jacinto Veloso, minister in the Presidency for economic affairs.

Plans Made for Cape Town Meeting on Cahora Bassa

MB051450 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Mozambique, Portugal, and South Africa are establishing preliminary contacts to pave the way for a tripartite meeting on Cahora Bassa in Cape Town next week. The meeting is a follow-up to the negotiations begun in Lisbon this February when the Portuguese Government proposed an increase in the tariffs for the electricity generated by Cahora Bassa to the South Africans.

Meanwhile, a source at the Minister of Industry and Power this morning contradicted what was reported by the newspaper *NOTICIAS* this morning. Louis Nel, the South African deputy foreign minister, is not coming to Maputo.

Machel Says Relations With UK 'Developing Rapidly'

MB050445 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Yesterday, President Samora Machel received the manager of the British company Agro Industries, Mr (Tyrone Lyon), and the president of the British Cabinet of Commerce, Lord Jellicoe. During the meeting, the Mozambique head of state said that relations between Mozambique and Great Britain have been developing rapidly in the past few years. And he added that contacts are necessary to establish common interests between the

two countries in the cooperation field. Lord Jellicoe has been in Maputo since yesterday to establish contacts with Mozambique Government officials. He is supposed to hold a meeting with Prakash Ratilal, the governor of the Bank of Mozambique.

PRAVDA Delegation Arrives for Working Visit

MB021556 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] A delegation from the Soviet Communist Party newspaper *PRAVDA* arrived in Maputo yesterday for a working visit at the invitation of the Frelimo Party. The delegation, which is led by *PRAVDA*'s deputy director, Yevgeniy Grigoryev, will hold discussions with the Frelimo Information Department and the Mozambique media. They also plan to visit another of the country's provinces.

NOTICIAS Editor, Family Killed in Terrorist Attack

MB051117 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Journalist Pedro Tivane, deputy chief editor of *NOTICIAS*, was barbarically murdered in the evening of 26 February near Manhica, when he was traveling in his car between Macia and Maputo.

The murderers ambushed four civilian vehicles on the road, killing five people and injuring two others. Journalist Pedro Tivane, his wife (Rita Gracinta Mucavele), and his youngest son, (Pedro), aged 21 months, were burned to death after the murderers set fire to their vehicle.

Of the victims traveling in other vehicles, one was shot dead and the other was killed with a machete while trying to run away. Two other occupants of these vehicles were injured but were able to escape and were treated at nearby hospitals.

The killers had infiltrated the region to carry out terrorist attacks which were to coincide with the closing of talks between the Mozambique and South African Governments.

MNR Commentary Says RSA Pact Will Not Save Machel

MB051031 (Clandestine) Voice of Mozambique National Resistance in Portuguese 0400 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Machel has been defeated. The struggle will, however, only stop in Maputo. We are quite aware that the new Frelimo-South Africa agreement is due shortly. At any rate, the ties of relations between the two regimes are not new. Machel and Frelimo have survived on the assistance they have received from the Pretoria regime since 1975.

These ties of cooperation are covered up by the gorilla Machel, who in his speeches pretends to attack the South Africans with whom he later cooperates in order to ask for assistance. What is happening today is only legalization of relations which have existed for a very long time between Frelimo and the RSA and the continuation of Maputo's search for a greater economic and financial assistance from the South Africans for its moribund regime. South Africa's new assistance is not coming in time to rescue the corrupt and decadent gorilla and his gang of bandits.

The struggle, the people's struggle and our struggle, is approaching Maputo. Shortly, our mortars and heavy weapons will be heard in the capital. Who will be able to save Machel? Nobody, nobody at all. In the so-called FPLN, disintegration, fear, confusion, and complete disarray now reign. Every month since the beginning of our large-scale "Red Summer" operation, hundreds and thousands of soldiers have fled Samora's barracks and have come over to us to join the people. The hour of the final battle, the hour of the battle for Maputo, is approaching. It is very near. Machel can no longer defeat anybody. Frelimo has been defeated.

No matter what accords and alliances may be concluded between the moribund Frelimo and other neighboring or distant countries, nothing will prevent the Mozambique National Resistance's [MNR] victory. We are the people, and therefore we shall win. Peace and prosperity in Mozambique will only be attained with MNR in power after the defeat of the Machel regime's criminals.

Nobody, neither Frelimo nor its allies, will be able to prevent this from happening. Maputo is already being encircled. Many Frelimo regime's bases and barracks have already fallen into our hands. Maputo will also fall. Nobody can defeat the people. Victory is ours. Let us prepare ourselves for the final battle. The struggle continues.

NAMIBIA

Territory Force Reports Increased SWAPO Incidents

MB052015 Umtata Capital Radio in English 2000 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] There are more SWAPO insurgents operating in Namibia now than there were last month. That is according to a statement released by the South-West Africa Territory Force in Windhoek. The statement says the number of guerrillas active in the operational area rose from 80 in mid-February to more than 800. The report says that the number of incidents have also increased. It says in December, 21 acts of insurgency were reported, as against 34 in January. It says in February, 58 incidents were recorded, 44 of which occurred in the last 2 weeks.

The Territory Force says security forces had tracked down and killed two SWAPO fighters of a group of nine who had broken through the so-called Red Line which separates the communal farming land of Ovambo from Tsumed.

Additional Details

MB060818 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] The South-West Africa Territory force says the situation in the operational area has deteriorated over the past few weeks.

A statement issued in Windhoek says the number of terrorists in the area has increased from about 80 in the middle of February to more than 800. Incidents involving terror increased from 21 in December last year to 34 in January and 58 last month. The statement says that despite the increase in their numbers, only nine of the terrorists are know to have infiltrated the farming area south of the Red Line. Two of them were shot dead by the security forces over the weekend and 13 others in smaller skirmishes. [sentence as heard]

It was reported that two observation posts along the border between South-West Africa and Angola were attacked by mortar fire but that the security force suffered no casualties. Eight telephone poles along the Ondangwa-Oshivelo Road were also sabotaged by terrorists, and on Friday night of last week, another group of terrorists fired seven mortar bombs at the Kaokoland Administrative Center at Opuwo. There were no casualties.

Police To Prevent SWAPO Rally Planned for 10 Mar
MB051455 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1200 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Police are to prevent SWAPO going ahead with a political rally in Windhoek this Saturday. The rally would be the first organized by SWAPO in Namibia for several years. Police in the Namibian capital say they will take timely action to prevent the rally from taking place. The territory's police commissioner, (Dolf Gous), says the organization of such a rally is an offense, and an investigation is under way with a view to prosecution. SWAPO applied last month to Windhoek's chief magistrate for permission to hold the rally. SWAPO is not a proscribed organization in Namibia, but its constitution has been banned.

SWAPO OAU Representative on Namibia Accord
LD051243 Algiers APS in English 1123 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Addis Ababa, 5/3 (APS) — "We don't want to interfere in affairs that depend on the sovereignty of states", SWAPO representative to the 40th OAU ministerial conference, Mr Peter Mueshihange, said on Saturday to the APS as concerns the latest accords concluded between Mozambique and Angola, and South Africa, "All what we hope, he added, is that these accords will not compromise the struggle for the liberation in Namibia. On the Angolan side, we are convinced that our Angolan brothers are more than ever siding with us for the accession of SWAPO to independence", SWAPO representative noted. Moreover the two Angolan and Namibian problems have a common link. However, he said, concerning Namibia, there is a small difference insofar as Namibia is colonized by South Africa. We would have liked to hear South Africa announce it was ready to comply with the Resolution 435 of the Security Council, Mr Mueshihange went on, noting "that would [words indistinct] Pretoria regime accepts to sit at a table of negotiations and sign the cease fire. Then, he said, the process aimed at the accession of Namibia to independence could be engaged as soon as the South African troops withdraw from Angola".

No Injuries in SWAPO Mortar Attack on Opuwo
MB051228 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] It has been revealed in Windhoek that SWAPO terrorists launched a mortar attack on Opuwo in Kaokoland in the north-western regions of South-West Africa at the weekend. More than 30 mortar shells were fired but only five landed in the town. Nobody was injured. One of the mortar shells hit a house in the black residential area but did not explode and was later disarmed.

Toivo Applies for Passport for Nujoma Meeting
MB060734 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] A SWAPO spokesman said in Windhoek yesterday that the recently freed cofounder of SWAPO, Herman Toivo ja Toivo, has applied to the South African authorities for a passport to travel abroad to meet the SWAPO leader Mr Sam Nujoma. SWAPO's joint secretary for foreign affairs, Niko Bessinger, said that Mr Nujoma telephoned Mr ja Toivo this past weekend asking for a meeting at an undisclosed site in the nearest possible future. He said six SWAPO officials, including Vice President Hendrik Witbooi, and National Vice Chairman Daniel Tjongarereo, planned to accompany Mr ja Toivo to the proposed meeting.

Church Delegates Say People Fear Army, Not SWAPO
MB041013 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0610 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] London, March 4, SAPA — A high-level Anglican Church delegation which visited SWA/Namibia has reported that people in the north live in "a state of perpetual fear and suspicion" — and fear the army and Koevoet far more than they fear SWAPO.

The delegation was sent to the territory by the archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, at the request of the bishop of Namibia, the Rt Rev James Kauluma. Its six members spent two weeks there, including six days in the war zone in Ovamboland and Okavango.

The delegation's report was published in London today and presented to Dr Runcie. Among its 18 conclusions were:

"The curfew in operation in the north, the undoubted intimidation, the destruction of property, the restriction of movement, the spreading of distrust through informers, the divisions in family life, the cases of abduction, torture and beatings, the total massive armed presence of the SADF, cause the community to live in a state of perpetual fear and suspicion. The people fear the army and the Koevoet far more than they fear SWAPO.

"The SADF claims that both army personnel and the Koevoet are accountable in law and that strict application of the law is made to their conduct in the operational zone. However, it was clear to us that the fear of reprisal and intimidation was so great that ordinary African people found it difficult to bring forward

complaints, and indeed there were occasions on which people were even frightened of speaking to us.

"While it has been said by some that Koevoet is directly responsible to Pretoria and others say that it is a force of irregulars, there seems to us to be the closest local cooperation with the regular South African forces, and, in the battle area, it appeared to us that they were under direct military command. If the South African Government intends to win the hearts and minds of the people, as they claim, then Koevoet activities are directly opposed to that policy.

"It appears to us that SWAPO has overwhelming support, not least from the main-line churches and their leaders.

"We believe the South African Government realises that there is nation-wide support for SWAPO.

"There is a disturbing and profound scepticism among Namibians about the reality and determination of diplomatic pressure on South Africa to implement UN Resolution 435 (the plan for the territory's independence)."

The members of the delegation were the Most Rev John Watanabe, primate of Japan; the Rt Rev Edmond Lee Browning, Bishop of Hawaii; the Rt Rev James Thompson, bishop of Stepney; the Rev Charles Cesaretti, public issues officer, the Episcopal Church in the USA; the Rev Winston Ndungane, provincial liaison officer, Church of the Province of Southern Africa; and Mr Terry Waite, the archbishop of Canterbury's assistant.

Among its recommendations are a suggestion that Dr Runcie should visit southern Africa and that there should be increased multi-denominational support for the educational, medical and industrial objectives of the church in the territory.

It wants the Anglican Church in South Africa, Britain, and the U.S. to make public declarations "as to the illegality of the South African occupation."

The delegation's 38-page report includes reported conversations its members had while in SWA/Namibia. They met political and military leaders, businessmen and local blacks and whites.

Some are attributed to those who made the remarks, others are not.

Among those identified are:

"Army vehicles drive straight at you on the wrong side of the road and you have to get out of the way" (the delegation itself).

"Koevoet is directly responsible to Pretoria" (an army spokesman).

"We have many black recruits and we shall soon have our first black officer" (an army spokesman).

SOUTH AFRICA

Zambia's Kaunda, Envoy to UN Schirnding Interviewed

MB051308 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1715 GMT 4 Mar 84

["Top Level" program presented by Cliff Saunders — recorded]

[Excerpts][Saunders] Many were surprised to hear that President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia played such a major role in bringing together for summit talks in Lusaka representatives from South Africa, Angola, and the United States. The Nobel Peace Prize winner was once again promoting the cause of peace:

[Kaunda] Allow me to say that it is very kind of people who say I am a peacemaker, but in fact what I did this time in the name of the Zambian people is not new. This has been our line all this time. What we were trying to do in Zambia in arranging this meeting fits in very well with all that we have been thinking, saying and doing all along the line, Cliff.

[Saunders] But the question is what lies behind it all. What are the forces, events, and developments that have combined to pursuade the states of southern Africa that now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of the region. South African ambassador to the United Nations, Kurt von Schirnding, gives his views from New York.

[Schirnding] Realities are beginning to gain the upper hand over rhetoric. But seen from my vantage point at the United Nations, what you referred to as normalizing relations has in fact, of course, always been our goal, and we have spelled this out on innumerable occasions. But of course, we have always been accused at the United Nations of window dressing and our bona fides have been questioned. Now here is concrete evidence that we are in earnest and that we are determined to translate our ideals into deeds. So clearly, this has done much for our credibility. On the other hand, as I have indicated, one should not run away with the idea that the United Nations as a whole is euphoric about these developments. On the contrary, there are many vested interests here at the United Nations who would like to see these initiatives fail. After all they undermine the propaganda which a large number of UN organs disseminate to the world, virtually on a daily basis, namely that South Africa is destabilizing its neighbors; South Africa is the root of all evil. So these developments are pulling the rug from under the feet of these people.

[Saunders] President Kaunda says Africa has been trying to pursue the road of persuasion ever since the Lusaka manifesto was drawn up in 1969, and this was carried through to the so-called manifesto of southern Africa:

[Kaunda] What we would like to do is to resolve our problems through discussion, through persuasion, and only when this fails should there be a struggle in any other form. For really, again, we are merely following what the manifesto on South Africa has been saying all along the line.

[Saunders] That may be the case, although many will dispute whether all African states have acted as if they wanted to avoid confrontation. But it is reactions of the South African Government which President Kaunda praises as the catalyst for the present initiative:

[Kaunda] The South African Government announced in this particular case that they were going to withdraw from southern Angola; and as soon as they did that, insofar as we are concerned, they are taking a very positive step for which we praise them, which we praise them now for, and we would like to pursue this to its logical conclusion, and this is what we are trying to do now.

[Saunders] But how does President Kenneth Kaunda see constructive engagement? Does he believe that what is happening today is a type of frontline states' version of constructive engagement with South Africa?

[Kaunda] I would not like to use the word constructive engagement, Cliff. It could mean so many things to so many people. I like to believe that we are saying the message we are sending to South Africa is that no one wants to drive the white people of South Africa into the ocean. The message we are sending to South Africans, whites especially, is that you are Africans like us. You belong to this continent and to no other. We would like to welcome you into our fold and various organizations. But you know the problem, which is self-imposed: That is the way you organize your society.

[Saunders] Certainly in the present peace initiatives in southern African, the role of the Soviet Union remains obscure if not ominous. While international approbation over what is happening in this part of the world grows, the Soviet Union has remained silent. It has done nothing to promote the cause of rapprochement, and all we see are mounting reports that SWAPO's refusal to heed Angolan Government instructions that it stop its forces from moving into South-West Africa is inspired from Moscow. Ambassador Kurt von Schirnding:

[Schirnding] I think the situation here is that rapprochement in southern Africa simply does not suit the Soviet Union's book. On the contrary, the Soviet Union's policies are aimed at encouraging turmoil and conflict in southern Africa, and they hope to be able to pick up the pieces. So this does not suit them. Peace and cooperation in southern Africa run counter to their strategy.

[Saunders] However, so far, despite Soviet-SWAPO provocation, the agreements reached in Lusaka are holding. The Joint Monitoring Commission formed during those talks, described by Foreign Minister Pik Botha as the machinery for peace, is making valiant attempts to keep it all together, to foster trust, and to allay suspicions. Following the South African announcement of SWAPO incursions into South-West Africa from Angola, President Kaunda played his role in urging restraint.

[Kaunda] I would pray, Cliff, that the South African authorities first of all examine the stand taken by the People's Republic of Angola. The authorities there are in our opinion, Cliff, absolutely determined and are indeed very honest and sincere about their declaration on the need to see that what was agreed in Lusaka is achieved. Now I agree also that, I mean, I do not doubt what the South African foreign minister has said. I am sure his information is accurate. I have no reason to doubt them at all, and with these two factors my plea would be to the South African authorities: Please be patient.

[Saunders] And to conclude, some of the hopes and the fears. From Ambassador Kurt von Schirnding, reaction on how UN members are responding to the southern African initiatives:

[Schirnding] The reaction has been extremely positive. I have had umpteen discussions with other ambassadors and members of the UN Secretariat concerning these developments, and these people represent, I think, a good cross-section of international community, and all are fascinated and intrigued. Of course, our adversaries have not been very vocal, and some of them are no doubt hoping that these new accords will fail, but that is only to be expected. But basically, the overall reaction has been positive, and the secretary general himself has reacted positively and publicly.

[Saunders] President Kaunda on whether the present momentum can be maintained:

[Kaunda] I pray to the good Lord God Almighty that He will bless all our hearts in this region to continue with this approach of talking to each other and finding solutions to these rather complex human problems. That is my prayer.

Lesotho Seen Pushing for Peace Pact With RSA

MB050556 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 4 Mar 83 p 2

[By Brian Pottinger, political correspondent]

[Text] A firm peace accord between South Africa and the embattled mountain kingdom of Lesotho is slowly shaping. High-level talks between South African and Lesotho delegations last weekend could have laid the groundwork for further accords to stabilise the see-saw relations between Pretoria and Maseru.

A Lesotho Government spokesman confirmed that security issues were demanding close attention "in the light of developments." And South African Foreign Affairs sources concede a firm peace accord with Lesotho would tie in well with other regional initiatives although a Maseru-Pretoria pact is not currently on the front burner. Such an accord would be the third major leg of the latest southern African peace initiative. Like Angola and Mozambique, Lesotho has been the victim of serious internal upheavals in recent years for which it has blamed Pretoria.

The talks held last weekend between South African Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha and his Lesotho counterpart, Mr E.R. Sekhonyana, were ostensibly to discuss the effect the new black taxation system would have on Lesotho citizens in South Africa. But during the talks security issues were raised and it is understood the Lesotho delegation was told tighter non-aggression agreements were desirable.

An agreement not to use each other's territory for attacks on the other was reached in June last year but since then relations between the two countries have continued to plummet.

South Africa, apparently, is determined to seal a formal non-aggression pact soon, even though Lesotho has begun putting pressure on identified ANC militants to leave the territory.

Motives for the South African Government's desire to move quickly now on the issue are:

— The vulnerability of the Jonathan government following uninterrupted LLA activity,
— The pledge to hold elections soon,
— The atmosphere generated by other southern African peace initiatives, and
— The request from certain Lesotho quarters that Pretoria try to "influence" the LLA to reduce its activities so that conditions of peace will prevail and Chief Jonathan will have no excuse for postponing elections.

For the embattled government of Chief Leabua Jonathan, meanwhile, any threat of renewed South African hostility would be serious.

Over the last three years the LLA military wing of the banned Basutoland Congress Party which was usurped by Chief Jonathan after he lost the 1970 elections, have been waging an intense campaign of murder, sabotage and violence.

In the last Lesotho budget defence took the biggest slice. The Jonathan government has repeatedly charged that the LLA is being supported by South Africa. It claims its cadres are trained by the SAP [South African Police] in bases in the Free State and operate from border areas of Transkeian territory. Pretoria has just as routinely denied the charges.

Lesotho Spokesman Denies Report

MB050720 Maseru Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] A spokesman for the Lesotho Government today denied a report in the *SUNDAY TIMES* of yesterday that the prime minister of Lesotho, Dr Leabua Jonathan, was pushing hard for a peace accord with South Africa.

The spokesman said that the views of the Government of Lesotho had already been expressed by the foreign minister of Lesotho, The Honorable E.R. Sekhonyana, who told his South African counterpart at their recent meeting that nonaggression pacts were only necessary between countries that had a legacy of military confrontations against one another. No such military confrontation existed between Lesotho and South Africa.

The spokesman added that contrary to the *SUNDAY TIMES* report, the recent meeting between South Africa and Lesotho, which was held at Lesotho's request, was intended to discuss the decision by South Africa to include that country's new tax arrangement, the taxation of Basotho working in South Africa, which contravened the existing labor agreement between the two countries that specifically precludes South Africa's taxation of Basotho workers in that country.

Transkei Chief Says Mandela Talks 'Confidential'

MB051217 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1102 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Umtata, March 5, SAPA — The state president of Transkei, Paramount Chief Kaiser Matanzima, has described as "confidential" negotiations for the release to Transkei of banned African National Congress leader, Nelson Mandela, who has been in life imprisonment for the last 20 years.

President Matanzima was approached to confirm the offer he was reported to have made for Mandela's release "provided he was prepared to come to stay in Transkei."

The president, through his secretary, Mr S.D. Mlonyeni, said "governmental matters are confidential" and that he would not publicly comment on the report which appeared in an East London morning newspaper circulating here.

Mandela, who is cousin of President Matanzima, has been in life imprisonment on Robben Island for ANC activities for 21 years, and he is now in Polsmoor prison in Cape Town.

The newspaper said according to family friends, the offer was made two weeks ago when President Matanzima sent a message to Mandela's wife, Mrs Winnie Mandela, to see him in Umtata "as a matter of urgency."

Mandela's reaction to the offer, which is believed to be the third of its nature, depends on the outcome of a routine monthly visit this week to Polsmoor prison by his wife.

The report said the offer by President Matanzima to have Mandela released would be the third one to be declined if he did not accept it.

Committees To Receive Churches' Memo on Urban Law

MB021512 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] The minister of constitutional development and planning, Mr Heunis, is to submit to the Select Committee on the Constitution and the Cabinet Committee on the Position of Blacks Outside the National States the memorandum that a group of clergymen and members of various churches handed to him concerning the urbanization laws affecting blacks. Mr Heunis is chairman of both committees. The Select Committee on the Constitution is carrying out an investigation into the Orderly Movement and Settlement of Black Persons Bill, which provides mainly for influx control measures. The memorandum, which was handed to Mr Heunis in Cape Town yesterday, criticizes the government's urbanization legislation affecting blacks. The group, representing English and Afrikaans churches in Pretoria, says that many blacks are suffering under the system of black urbanization.

The leader of the opposition, Dr van Zyl Slabbert, says the government should issue a declaration of intent to remove hurtful and unnecessary discrimination in the country. He says such a declaration will remove uncertainty, and will create a framework for consultation. Introducing a motion in the House of Assembly, Dr Slabbert said the declaration should cover the economic, social, and political fields, and that no one should be discriminated against by laws that favored one group above another. Dr Slabbert said official government policy of deliberate racial discrimination was a major threat to social order and stability.

U.S. Named as Likely Source for Corn Imports

MB052010 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Indications are that South Africa will again have to import maize from the United States this year. This comes after the announcement last Friday that the country's expected maize crop for this year will be about 2.7 million tons. This means South Africa will have to import at least 4.3 million tons of maize to meet local needs. It was made known about a fortnight ago that Argentina was prepared to supply South Africa with maize, but the general manager of the Maize Board, Mr (Hennie Nel), told our agricultural correspondent that Argentina could not yet be trusted as a reliable supplier.

Mr (Nel) said there was at present a great deal of delay with the loading of maize at ports in Argentina, and South Africa could not afford such delays. Mr (Nel) confirmed that the United States would most probably again supply South Africa with most of its maize requirements this year. He said American No 2 maize, which was imported to South Africa last year, was one of the best types for human consumption. Mr (Nel) also said that everything possible would be done to try to prevent aflotoxin-contaminated maize from reaching South Africa.

Finance Minister Leaves on Official Europe Visit

MB051908 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] The minister of finance, Mr Horwood, leaves tonight on an official visit to Europe. On Wednesday he will address a London *FINANCIAL TIMES* conference on South Africa's requirements and contributions to the international capital markets. En route back to South Africa, Mr Horwood will stop over in Paris to sign the formal agreement on South Africa's flotation of a 40 million rand public bond on the European currency markets.

Australia's Visa Refusal for RSA Politicians Scored

MB031234 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] The deputy minister of foreign affairs, Mr Louis Nel, says that the Australian Government, by refusing visas to two South African politicians, has shown it has no real interest in political developments in South Africa. He was commenting in a statement issued in Pretoria on the decision by the Australian Government not to grant visas to the member of Parliament for Maitland, Mr Kent Durr, and an Indian community leader, Mr Mahmoud Rajob, to undertake a lecture tour of Australia.

Explaining its reasons for the refusal, the Australian Government said it regarded the proposed tour as a propaganda attempt intended to promote what it called the South African Government's apartheid policy. Mr Nel said Australia's refusal to grant visas to Mr Durr and Mr Rajab, and its refusal earlier this year to grant a visa to the president of the South African Rugby Board, Dr Craven, were irreconcilable with a genuine interest in events in South Africa or with Australia's own definition of a just, democratic society.

Referring to last year's decision by the Australian Government to allow the ANC and SWAPO to open information offices in the country, Mr Nel said it was apparently acceptable for organizations openly advocating terror and violence to recount their policy and activities to Australians, but a member of Parliament and an Indian leader from South Africa were not permitted to explain their viewpoints, even at private gatherings.

Mr Durr and Mr Rajab were invited by the South African Department of Foreign Affairs and the South African Embassy in Canberra to address meetings in the Australian capital as well as in Perth and Sydney on current developments in southern Africa.

Envoy Says Malawi Welcomes Normalization Efforts

MB040547 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Malawi has welcomed efforts to normalize relations between South Africa and Mozambique. The Malawian ambassador to South Africa, Mr T.S. Mangwazu, told the South African Broadcasting Corporation that instability in Mozambique had proved disastrous to the Malawian economy. He said he believed the South African Government was sincere in its efforts to bring about peace. Any negotiations, he said, should be based on sincerity and a willingness to implement proposals.

ZIMBABWE

Prime Minister Mugabe Outlines Governors' Duties

MB021618 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, says transformation can only be meaningful if it affects the poorest people in remote areas and enables them to enjoy a better life. Addressing the newly appointed eight provincial governors in Harare today, Comrade Mugabe said they will be in charge of provinces and added that (?charge) of ministries will remain under the command of their respective ministers.

The prime minister pointed out that this will help him assess the work of both the governors and the ministers. Comrade Mugabe called for greater liaison between the governors and provincial administrators, and warned the newly appointed officials against

using force in dealing with the people. Comrade Mugabe said under the new development plan, village development committees will be elected by the villagers to plan and identify development projects relating to roads, health, and education. He urged the new governors to read the literature on development and to study the existing infrastructures in their respective provinces.

The governors, who were sworn in yesterday by the president, Comrade Canaan Banana, will have the status of ministers and will be answerable to the prime minister's office.

Senate Eyes Legal Bill, Passes Constitution Change

MB021043 Harare Domestic Service in English 0410 GMT 2 Mar 84

["Yesterday in Parliament" program]

[Excerpts] The minister of justice, legal, and parliamentary affairs, Comrade Eddison Zvobgo, says the government intends making the judicial process in the country as least expensive as possible. Comrade Zvobgo made this remark during consideration of the Criminal Procedure Laws Amendment bill in the Senate yesterday. He said in the terms of the bill, when an appeal against conviction in a criminal case has been noted to the Supreme Court, the attorney general could at any time before the hearing of the appeal give reasons to the registrar of the Supreme Court why he did not support the conviction. The judge in the Supreme Court or in chambers may allow the appeal and quash the conviction without hearing argument from the accused or his legal representative, and without the accused appearing before him. The bill went through its committee and third reading stages without amendment.

The Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment No 4 bill passed through the Senate with 31 senators approving, and only one senator, (Sam Whelley), objecting. Senator (Whelley) said he opposed the bill because of a clause providing for the appointment of judges for a fixed period. However, he agreed with the explanation of the minister of justice, legal, and parliamentary affairs, Comrade Eddison Zvobgo, that the clause is intended to enable the government to appoint foreign judges for a limited period until there are sufficient Zimbabweans qualified to become judges.

The president of the Senate, Comrade (Nolan Makonde), had to interrupt business of the House to swear in a new senator, Comrade Benson Ndemera, the governor-designate for the Midlands Province. At the end of the ceremony the upper house approved the committee and third reading stages of the Urban and Rural Councils Amendment bills. The Urban Council Amendment bill seeks to lower the voting age from 21 to 18, while the other bill aims to enable 18-year-old (?land laborers) to vote in rural councils.

In a major announcement, the minister of agriculture, Senator Norman, called on cattle farmers in drought-stricken areas to sell some of their cattle to the Cold Storage Commission. He said these would be held on the Cold Storage Commission ranches, and will be available in 1985 for a restocking exercise should this be necessary. Senator Norman said the Cold Storage Commission will arrange cattle sales in communal and commercial areas. He said farmers in the southern half of the country are expecting their third year of drought and he hoped therefore that the measures announced would alleviate their [word indistinct].

ZAPU MP Tells of Beatings by Security Forces

AB021055 Paris AFP in English 1044 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Harare, Mar 2 (AFP) — Sikwili Moyo, an opposition member of Zimbabwe's Parliament, said today he was badly beaten and held for three days this week by security forces in the Matabeleland South curfew area.

After displaying massive bruises on his back and legs, which he said he received from the Army's notorious 5th Brigade, Mr Moyo, 61, said troops were beating hundreds of civilians in the public stadium in the town of Gwanda.

He also accused the government of "genocide" by cutting off all food supplies to the curfew area, where some 400,000 to 500,000 black farmers live. "After three years of drought those people have no food at all, they depend on the shops. The government cuts the supply of mealie meal (the staple maize meal) overnight. It's genocide as far as I'm concerned," said Mr Moyo, speaking in opposition leader Joshua Nkomo's Harare home.

"People were living hand-to-mouth with the food from those shops. Now they are closed. My conclusion is that those people are starving."

Mr Moyo, a member of Parliament for Mr Nkomo's ZAPU party in Matabeleland South, which has been under a strict army curfew since February 3, said he was taken from his home in Gwanda, about 115 kilometres southeast of Bulawayo, last Monday. He said he was taken to Gwanda's stadium, where he saw hundreds of residents being forced to run a gauntlet between two rows of soldiers, who kicked them, beat them and hit them with rifle butts. Mr Moyo said he was then taken to an army roadblock and camp at the old Bar 20 mine, a few kilometres from Gwanda. He said a 5th Brigade officer told him, "I don't think you'll see the sun tomorrow" and then knocked him down. Mr Moyo said that as army men stood on his hands his legs were held up in the air and the 5th Brigade men beat him for a prolonged period with branches from bushes. He displayed heavy bruises and swelling on his back, buttocks and legs.

"They shouted at me in Shona as they were beating me. They said I was a Zulu who had stolen their land (a reference to Mr Moyo's Ndebele heritage, because that tribe moved into southwestern Zimbabwe in the late 1800's). They said I was a dissident." He said many other people at the camp were beaten and he heard their screams and cries.

Mr Moyo said he was held by the army men until Tuesday night. After he was returned to his home, his family took him to the Gwanda district hospital where he was treated for his injuries, "but I did not feel safe there because the 5th Brigade soldiers were just roaming through the hospital. I learned that people had been picked up by them from the hospital."

Mr Moyo said he left the hospital for Bulawayo and then flew to Harare, where he hopes to meet with the speaker of the House of Assembly, Didymus Mutasa, and the minister of justice, legal and parliamentary affairs, Eddison Zvobgo, to tell them of his beatings.

When Mr Moyo finished his account, Joshua Nkomo said, "You see, when I spoke in Parliament of beatings they called me a liar. He is an MP, if they are so severe with a member of Parliament, what of the ordinary man? How harsh are they to other people?"

Mr Nkomo yesterday denounced the recent mutilations of four schoolteachers by anti-government dissidents, reportedly because the teachers spoke only the majority Shona language and supported Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's government.

Mr Nkomo said he and his ZAPU party "categorically condemn the beastly mutilations" and said such atrocities can only make Zimbabwe's problems worse. Mr Nkomo also repeated his and his party's disavowal of the dissidents.

Mr Nkomo said the continuing violence in southwestern Zimbabwe "can only be solved by discussions" and regretted that his suggestion for a parliamentary committee to consider the situation had been rejected last year by Mr Mugabe.

Replacement for U.S. Envoy Keeley Considered
MB060702 (Clandestine) Radio Truth in English to Zimbabwe 0430 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Station commentary; intercepted in progress]

[Text] ... a fine and courteous man, which gives us some idea of Mr Keeley anyway. At the time of broadcasting, we do not know just who Mr Keeley's replacement is going to be, but we understand there is quite a war in Washington over the appointment. President Reagan and his administration are not happy with Zimbabwe or the political direction it is taking and will want a blunt, hard man to represent them here. The very leftist State Department, on the other hand, is trying for another Mr Keeley, perhaps someone even more so than Mr Keeley, but with a stronger tongue when it comes to bootlicking. As we said, at this moment we do not know just who the new man will be, but it will be very interesting when we do.

In the interim period, Mr Keeley at his good-bye function announced that the United States is to donate a large quantity of maize to this country. A fine gesture, you might think, until you consider that America produces yellow, not white, maize, and that yellow maize is not acceptable to Zimbabwean blacks. Without a doubt there will be trouble over this gift, and our farmers stand to be in the middle again.

It's really quite easy to see why, and in fact the attacks on white commercial farmers have already begun. Commercial farmers are already getting it in the neck for only producing 200,000 hectares of mealies this year, a drop of about 280,000 hectares over 3 years. We all know that this is the fault of the regime and its policy, but scapegoats have to be found, and being found they are.

If maize rationing in any form is introduced this year, and when the allocation to Matabeleland is cut to the bone, the farmers will be blamed for not planting enough or for putting profit before the national interest. Just wait and see if we're not right on this one. Then, as a spinoff to this attack, accusations will emanate loud and long from Harare on the subject of the economy still being in the hands of neocolonialists.

These two attacks, combined as they will be, are part of the growing campaign to justify the introduction of the one-party state next year. We invite all our listeners to monitor events closely over the next few months to see just what is happening to our country.